

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 90 No. 4

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TODAYSCATHOLICNEWS.org

Pro-life community rallies at 'March for Life: South Bend'



Kevin Haggenjos

Young people and many Catholics from the South Bend community participate in the St. Joseph County Right to Life sponsored "March for Life: South Bend" on Jan. 22. With schools opting out of participation in the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., because of blizzard conditions, many participated in the South Bend march. More stories and photos on page 9.

Evensong ecumenical vespers joins voices in prayer for unity

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was the homilist at the Evensong Ecumenical Vespers on Sunday, Jan. 24, in Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Fort Wayne. The event was part of the Week of Christian Unity celebrations, which began on Jan. 18, the feast of St. Peter's Chair, and concluded Jan. 25, the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

The week of prayer has a history of over 100 years. This year's theme was "Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord" from Peter.

Shawn Storer, coordinator of the diocesan Ecumenical Office, echoed the words of Pope Francis who recently reminded the faithful: "This Week of Prayer invites us to reflect on, and bear witness to, our unity in Christ as God's people. All

the baptized, reborn to new life in Christ, are brothers and sisters, despite our divisions. Through Baptism we have been charged, as St. Peter tells us, 'to proclaim the mighty works of the One who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.' During this Week of Prayer, let us ask the Lord to help all Christians to grow in that unity which is greater than what divides us. Together, may we respond to His call to share with others, especially with the poor and forgotten of our world, the gift of divine mercy which we ourselves have received."

The Right Rev. Edward Stuart Little, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana, was the officiant at the service. Clergy from local Christian denominations were also invited to attend.

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Bishop Rhoades visits Haiti

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Foot washing ritual

Not limited to men

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Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

'Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service'

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Above, St. Pius X Catholic Social Teaching Ministry co-sponsors with the Catholic Peace Fellowship an evening vesper service to pray for the end of the death penalty.

Living the Year of Mercy

Visit the Imprisoned

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www.myyearofmercy.org

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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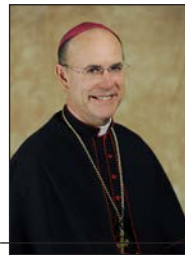
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Reflections from Haiti



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

As a board member of Catholic Relief Services, I participated last week in a five-day visit to Haiti. Accompanied by the CRS directors who work in Haiti, we visited several sites of CRS projects in Port-au-Prince as well as in the northern region of Haiti. Our delegation included the president and CEO of CRS, Dr. Carolyn Woo, who is from our diocese. She and her family are members of Saint Matthew Cathedral parish in South Bend. Dr. Woo is the former dean of the School of Business at Notre Dame. She has been doing an amazing job at CRS the last few years.

I had always wanted to visit Haiti, a beautiful country known as the "Pearl of the Caribbean," yet one that has been afflicted throughout its history by natural disasters, political instability, and extreme poverty. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, with 80% of Haitians living on less than \$2 a day. Despite so much adversity, the Haitian people seem to persevere with courage and hope, rooted in a strong and vibrant faith. The people of this traditionally Catholic country have shown tremendous resiliency in the face of so many tragedies and setbacks. It is undoubtedly their faith that sustains them to move forward and not give up.

Catholic Relief Services has served in Haiti since 1954, so the agency is well-known and appreciated. This presence and experience in Haiti over so many years enabled CRS to respond to the 2010 earthquake immediately. CRS grew to over 700 staff after the earthquake to provide emergency assistance and to resettle displaced families with suitable housing, water, and sanitation. With this earthquake recovery program completed, CRS Haiti is now back to its normal staff of about 130. The work of CRS in Haiti continues since there are still many needs for ongoing and sustainable development. During our visit, we saw several projects aimed at addressing these needs in the areas of health care, education, urban renewal, and agriculture.

In the cities of Port-au-Prince and Cap Haitien (in the north), we saw so many people living in over-crowded, unsanitary slums and dangerous tenements. Many of the roads and streets were in need of repair. There was terrible traffic congestion. I learned that crowded cities were a result of so many people moving from rural areas to the cities since they were unable to make a living in their traditional farming occupations. Also, many moved to the cities for better access to health care and education.

In Cap Haitien, I was reminded of the words of Pope Francis: *The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth* (Laudato Si 21). I thought of these words while passing the city's shoreline by the ocean where there were piles and piles of garbage and waste. I could not understand why people would dump their garbage there, thinking this could be an area of beautiful coastal scenery. I learned that the city did not have adequate waste removal and waste management. The people had no place to deposit their trash.



Provided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is shown in Ouanaminthe, where he visited a center run by the Sisters of St. John the Evangelist from Colombia, and supported by CRS. They care for migrant women and children while the Jesuits care for the larger number of men. The sisters also run an educational program called "Sowers of Peace" for the local youth which is shown in the photo above.

Amid the mounds of garbage were dogs, pigs, and goats rummaging through the refuse. I thought about the likely dangers to health because of all this waste in the streets and on the shore.

The undignified conditions of the cities made me realize the importance of giving priority to urban renewal. CRS is active in this area with its urban programming. In Port-au-Prince we visited a poor slum called Solino. There we met a Spiritan priest who works in the neighborhood and is supported by CRS. CRS helped in building a beautiful soccer field in the neighborhood which is like an oasis in the midst of a desert. Besides providing some green space in the midst of concrete tenements, the soccer field provides a place for recreation. There are not only soccer teams, but also training programs for youth that give hope for a brighter future. CRS helps provide peace-building programs that help young people to turn away from gangs and violence. Urban programming is one of the priorities of CRS in Haiti.

In Port-au-Prince, we also visited the beautiful new San Francois de Sales Hospital, owned and operated by the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince. The previous hospital was destroyed in the 2010 earthquake. CRS and the US Catholic Health Association provided most of the funding for the reconstruction of the hospital and the provision of medical equipment. CRS is working with the archdiocese to organize the hospital services in order to serve more patients and improve the quality of care. CRS provides technical and strategic support for the Catholic health network in Haiti. There is still much work to be done as they work on strategic planning and organization so that the hospital will soon be in full operation.

While in Port-au-Prince, we were somewhat affected by the political turmoil of the present time. As you may have seen in the news, Haiti was supposed to have presidential elections on Sunday, January 24th, but the elections have been postponed. This situation led to public demonstrations that some-

times turned violent in the streets of Port-au-Prince. This somewhat affected our movement around the city so as to avoid the areas of the demonstrations. One of the recurring problems and impediments to Haiti's development has been the political instability there for many decades. The Catholic Church is now the major mediator between various opposing parties in Haiti. Too often political corruption and violence have impeded social development in Haiti. Real change is needed to address Haiti's problems and to serve the common good of the people. The Church advocates for this change in a way that avoids the violent conflicts that bring even more misery to society.

Another priority of CRS in Haiti is its agricultural programs and projects. This is an area of strong expertise of CRS in Africa and elsewhere. We visited one of these projects in northern Haiti: a cocoa cooperative supported by CRS. We met several of the local farmers who expressed gratitude for the help of CRS in improving production and engaging the market. It was great to see the progress of this cooperative program, the people's pride in their work and the better quality cocoa product. CRS doesn't just provide or distribute food in poor countries. It helps the local farmers with their methods, with access to the market, thus making agriculture a more secure and sustainable livelihood. This is especially important in Haiti to prevent more people needing to move to urban slums. It is also important given the environmental deterioration in rural areas caused by deforestation and climate change.

Though we saw poverty and suffering everywhere, I was most impacted by our visit to the border town of Ouanaminthe. There we visited a shelter run by Jesuit Refugee Services and supported by CRS. In recent months, the Dominican Republic has expelled and deported thousands of Haitian migrant workers. These are truly "the poorest of the poor." The Jesuit shelter provides immediate

VESPERS

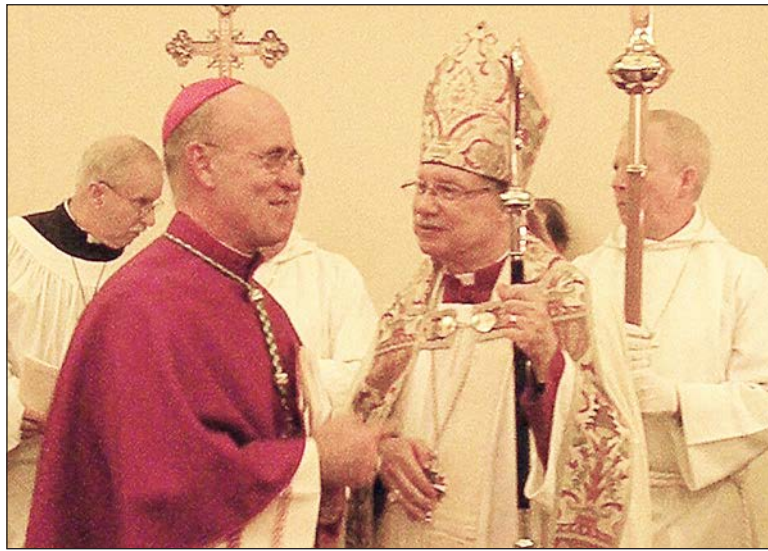
Continued from Page 1

The sung office of Evening Prayer in the Anglican tradition was led by the combined choirs of the Trinity Episcopal Church and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

In the homily, Bishop Rhoades said, "We are used to the divisions within the Christian community, divisions that go back centuries. But these divisions are not natural. They are not good. They are wounds to the Body of Christ. They impair and impede the Church's evangelizing mission in the world."

There is a temptation to indifference and complacency in the face of Christian disunity. Bishop Rhoades noted, "We are here because we believe that it is God's will that we be one. We know very well that there are many obstacles to the reestablishment of full communion among Christians. Rather than succumb to a sterile pessimism, we ask the Lord for the grace of renewed determination to pursue, with courage and generosity, the unity, which is His will."

Bishop Rhoades encouraged all to pray for the persecuted brothers and sisters, especially the Christians of Syria and Iraq. "They are witnesses to Jesus Christ and are persecuted because they are Christians,"



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades chats with Bishop Edward Little of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana marking the Week of Christian Unity.

Bishop Rhoades said. "ISIS makes no distinction among Christian denominations. They don't ask those they capture: are you Anglican or Catholic or Orthodox or Protestant? They ask: 'are you Christians?' It is for their Christian faith that they are persecuted and even sometimes tortured and killed. This is what Pope Francis has called 'the ecumenism of blood.'"

Bishop Rhoades spoke of the powerful witness of ecumenism. "May these contemporary martyrs inspire us in our faith and in our quest for Christian unity," he said.

Ultimately unity among Christians is the work and gift of the Holy Spirit. "At the same time," Bishop Rhoades said, "we have our part to play in cooper-

ating with the Holy Spirit which requires, first and foremost, conversion. The Second Vatican Council taught that 'there can be no ecumenism worthy of the name without a change of heart.' Authentic conversion is needed."

Bishop Rhoades spoke of the conversion of St. Paul: "Paul's conversion can be a model for us, not necessarily in such a dramatic fashion, but a model nonetheless in its core content. Our conversion, our ongoing conversion, involves first and foremost our encounter with the Risen Christ and opening our eyes in faith to the illumination of His divine grace. To be converted means that, like St. Paul, we truly believe that Jesus has given Himself for us, that He died and rose, and that He lives with us and in us."

"It means we let Him take us by the hand and lift us," the bishop said quoting Pope Benedict XVI, "out of the quicksands of pride and sin, of deceit and sadness, of selfishness and of every false security, to know and live the richness of His love."

The bishop added, "When we pray for Christian unity, we must pray for the grace of this conversion. It is not a coincidence that the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends on the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul since the reunion of Christians can be attained only by way of conversion."

He added, "It is also a great impetus to unity when we work together in proclaiming and serving the Gospel. I think, for example, of joining together in works of mercy and service of the poor and suffering."

Bishop Rhoades spoke of his recent visit to Haiti to see many projects of Catholic Relief Services there: "I met several of the CRS staff that was composed not only of Catholics, but Christians of other denominations. Together they served the poor and vulnerable. This is an important part of ecumenical progress: bearing common witness to Christ in upholding the dignity of every human person, in caring for the earth, our common home, and in promoting peace and the common good."



Public Schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Sunday, Jan. 31, 11 a.m. — Mass at Saint Joseph Church, Roanoke
- Monday, Feb. 1, 11:30 a.m. — Light of Learning Luncheon, Hotel Fort Wayne, Marquis Ballroom, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, Feb. 3, 10:30 a.m. — Meeting of Presbyterate, Sacred Heart School, Warsaw
- Wednesday, Feb. 3, 6 p.m. — Meeting with Students, University of Notre Dame
- Thursday, Feb. 4, 11:30 a.m. — Light of Learning Luncheon, Hilton Garden Inn, Gillespie Conference Center, South Bend
- Thursday, Feb. 4, 6 p.m. — Dinner Meeting with Faculty, University of Notre Dame
- Friday, Feb. 5, 8:30 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, St. Michael the Archangel School, Plymouth

Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion to be celebrated in diocesan cathedrals

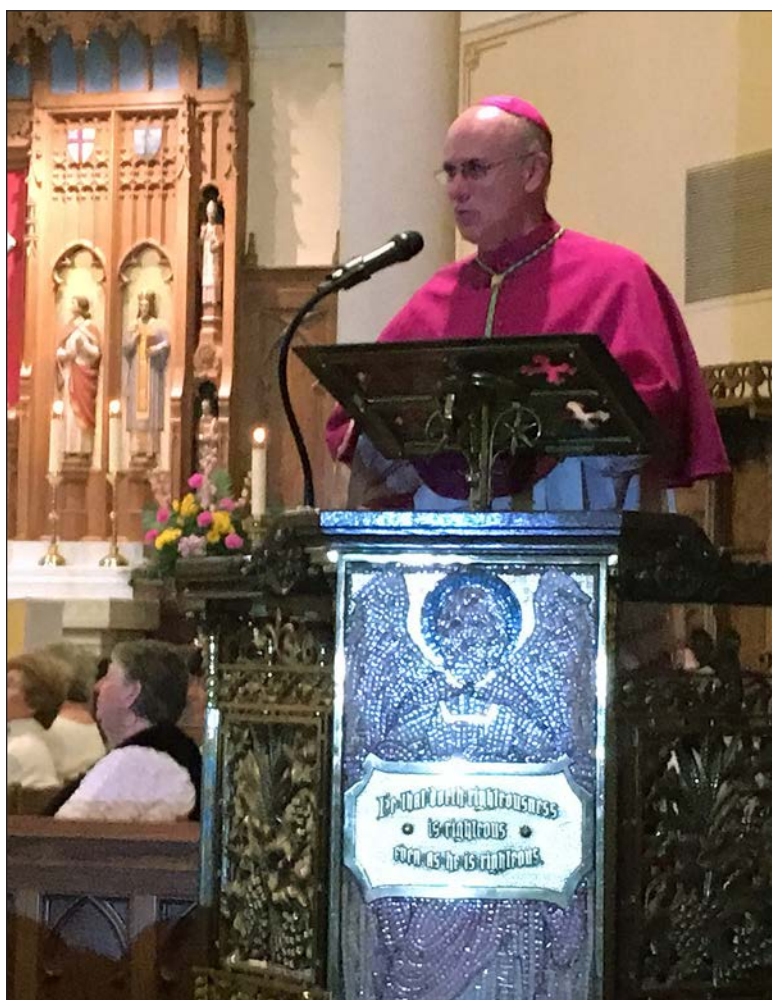
The Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates will be celebrated in the cathedrals of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

These rites will take place in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, at 2 p.m. on Feb. 7, and in St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, on Sunday, Feb. 14, at 2 p.m.

Catechumens are those unbaptized individuals who will be entering the Catholic Church by receiving all the sacraments of initiation — Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil on the night of March 26. Candidates are those who are already baptized and are now preparing to complete their initiation or enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

The catechumens and candidates come from parishes throughout the diocese. During the liturgy, each catechumen and candidate, as well as his or her godparent or sponsor, will be presented for recognition to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. All together, several hundred catechumens and candidates — along with their godparents, sponsors, families and guests — are expected to attend the liturgies.

The catechumens inscribe their names within the "Book of the Elect," which will be presented for Bishop Rhoades to sign in an event called the Enrollment of Names. After participating in the Rite of Election, the catechumens will be referred to as the "elect," because they will have been officially declared ready to receive the Easter sacraments this year.



Photos by Tim Johnson

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades offered the homily at the Ecumenical Evensong on Jan. 24 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Wayne. The combined choirs of Trinity Episcopal Church and the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, directed by Michael Dulac of the cathedral, provided the music. Bishop Edward Little of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana was the officiant of the service, which marked the Week of Christian Unity.

Foot-washing ritual not limited to men, Vatican says in new decree



CNS/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters

Pope Francis kisses the foot of a female inmate during the Holy Thursday Mass at Rebibbia prison in Rome in this April 2, 2015, file photo. Following a request by Pope Francis, the Vatican issued a decree Jan. 21 specifying that the Holy Thursday foot-washing ritual can include women.

HAITI

Continued from Page 2

assistance and support to the migrants. I met and prayed with one of the migrant workers who was rescued at the border. A few months earlier, the Dominican authorities raided the factory where he and fellow Haitian migrants were working. Trying to run away, two of his friends were shot and killed. He was also shot in his thigh, but was able to escape. He found his way to the border. I spoke and prayed with him. He most likely would have died if not for the help of the Jesuit shelter where he is receiving food and medical care. Next week, he is scheduled to have the bullet in his thigh removed in surgery at the local Catholic hospital. I saw in this man's eyes, which filled with tears from the love he experienced at the shelter, a new sense of his own dignity as a child of God, a dignity that he had probably not felt in a very long time. It is hard for me to put into words the feeling that I had and still have in meeting this man and seeing his suffering. I saw in his face and emaciated body the face and the body of Jesus in His passion. This is why CRS exists and why we must support its mission.

In Ouanaminthe, we also visited a center run by the Sisters of Saint John the Evangelist from Colombia, supported by CRS. They care for migrant women and children while the Jesuits care for the larger number of men. The sisters also run an educational program called "Sowers of Peace" for the local youth. We met with a group of the young people who did a skit for us on the plight of trafficked children. Child labor and human trafficking are also problems in Haiti. I celebrated Mass with the sisters and children in English and Spanish and with translation by the Jesuit priest, in Creole as well. So it was a tri-lingual Mass. Of course, we had Mass every day in Haiti at different locations.

Each evening during our visit, we shared dinner with various groups of CRS partners, including bishops, priests, and local education and health care leaders. I learned a great deal from the dinner discussions and the innovative ideas that were shared. One evening we met

with members of the Catholic Episcopal Education Commission which supervises more than 2,300 Catholic schools in Haiti. I am glad that CRS partners with this Commission and our own University of Notre Dame to support teacher training and to improve early grade literacy and other priorities of Haiti's Catholic schools.

We were hosted for dinner one evening by the Apostolic Nuncio to Haiti, Irish Archbishop Eugene Martin Nugent. We were both surprised to discover that we had been classmates 36 years ago at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Another surprise for me was learning while visiting with the Archbishop of Cap Haitien that he was close friends with one of the permanent deacons in the Diocese of Harrisburg whom I knew very well, a Haitian-American doctor and surgeon in Hershey who founded and supports two Catholic schools in Gonaives, Haiti.

I cannot finish this column without sharing the deep admiration I have for the CRS staff in Haiti, most of whom are Haitians. We met with the national office staff in Port-au-Prince on our last day in Haiti. Their great commitment to their people and to the Church was evident. Having completed massive earthquake recovery efforts, CRS in Haiti still has extremely important work to do, given future disaster risk and the huge development needs in Haiti. Much work in the areas of health care, education, agriculture, and urban life remains. There is also the relatively new emergency situation of the plight of the Haitian migrants returning from the Dominican Republic.

I hope and pray that the relationship between the Church in the United States and the Church and people of Haiti will continue to be strong. I am proud of the work of CRS and grateful for the generosity of the people of our diocese in supporting CRS. I am especially happy that so many of our parishes and also our four high schools promote various programs of CRS, including Operation Rice Bowl during the Lenten season.

Please remember in your prayers our CRS staff and all our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ. They are a resilient people, examples of faith and hope in the midst of the difficulties of life. May the Lord give them light and strength! And may Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the patroness of Haiti, intercede for them!



From left, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, is shown with Carolyn Woo, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services and Irish Archbishop Eugene Martin Nugent, the apostolic nuncio to Haiti, who hosted a dinner during Bishop Rhoades' visit.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited a shelter run by Jesuit Refugee Services and supported by CRS in the border town of Ouanaminthe. In recent months, the Dominican Republic has expelled and deported thousands of Haitian migrant workers. These are truly "the poorest of the poor." The Jesuit shelter provides immediate assistance and support to the migrants.

CRS' history in Haiti

Catholic Relief Services began working in Haiti in 1954 after Hurricane Hazel devastated the country and killed about 1,000 people. High population density, severe deforestation and decaying infrastructure make Haiti particularly vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes and floods.

CRS Haiti continues its long-standing commitment to helping the Haitian people in many aspects of their lives, including sustainable development efforts after the 2010 earthquake. In Haiti, CRS responds to emergencies, provides agriculture assistance, supports education and works to enhance the health care system throughout the country.

People Served: 3,168,008 (FY 2014)

Population: 10,745,665 (MSPP, May 2015)

Size: 10,714 sq mi; a little larger than Massachusetts

Programming areas

- Emergency Response and Recovery
- Agriculture
- Health
- HIV and Tuberculosis
- Education
- Microfinance
- Water and Sanitation

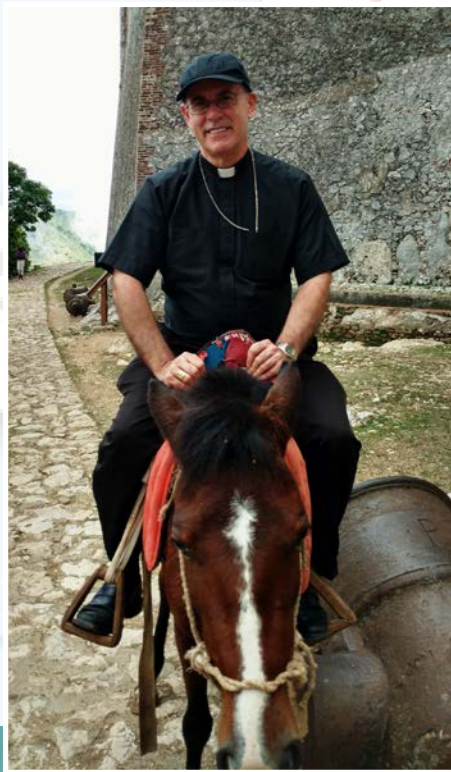


Trash along the shoreline is shown in Cap Haitien.



Catholic Relief Services works in Haiti with agricultural programs and projects including this cocoa cooperative in northern Haiti. The visitors learned how CRS helps local farmers with their methods with access to the market, thus making agriculture a more secure and sustainable livelihood.

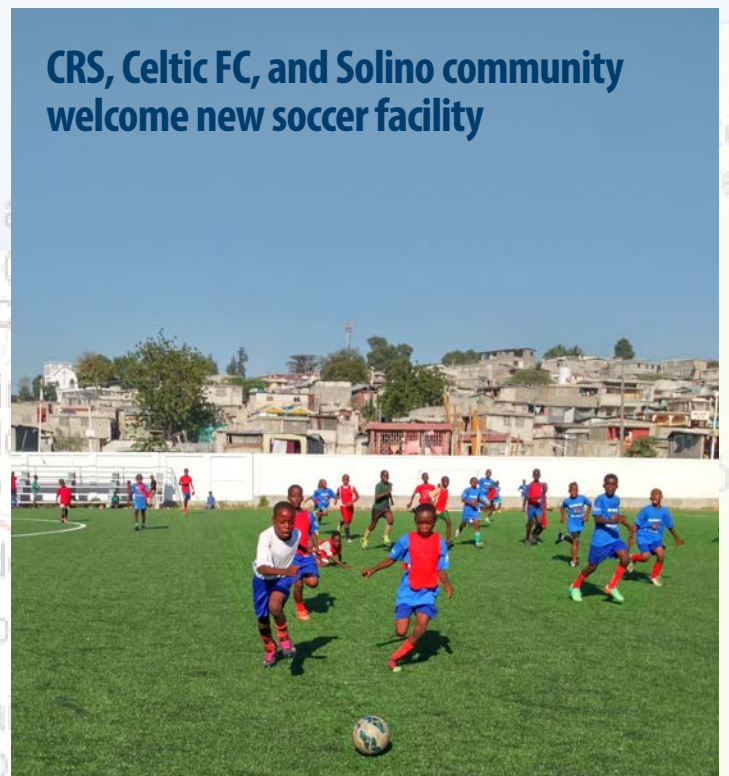
Below, a Haitian agricultural worker shows part of the processing of cocoa plants.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades rode a horse to the Citadelle Laferrière, a historic mountaintop fortress on the top of mountain Bonnet a L'Eveque in northern Haiti that is not accessible by car.



The city did not have adequate waste removal and waste management. The people had no place to deposit their trash. Amid the mounds of garbage were dogs, pigs and goats rummaging through the refuse.



Photos provided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Children play soccer at Celtic Park Haiti, which was facilitated by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Celtic FC Foundation.

PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI — Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Celtic FC Foundation joined the community of Solino in Haiti for the opening of a new soccer facility, Celtic Park Haiti on Sept. 11, 2015.

The park opened with a match of local community youth teams. This community recreational park includes a nearly regulation-size soccer field, basketball and handball courts, a stage for community events, bleachers, lavatories, lighting and new Celtic Park signage.

“Solino is no longer in a red zone, it’s a green and white zone. We are so grateful to be a part of the launch and hope to see a Haitian wearing our Celtic colors in Scotland one day,” said Tony Hamilton, CEO of the Celtic FC Foundation who flew from Glasgow, Scotland, for the event.

In 2010, the Haitian earthquake destroyed the Solino community. The grounds that once served as a community soccer field were turned into a camp to provide temporary housing to 700 families who lost their homes. In the months after the earthquake, CRS helped the Solino community clear drainage canals backed up with debris and garbage from other parts of the city, rebuild their homes and kick start families’ livelihoods.

An American philanthropist, who wishes to remain anonymous, and Celtic FC fan saw firsthand the challenges faced by the people in Solino during a 2012 visit. He was moved to act.

The spirit of the Solino community has touched a football club all the way in Scotland. “This has only been possible by a coming together of local government, the Spiritans and the private sector, to create a magnificent recreational facility for the community,” said Sean Callahan, chief operating officer for CRS.

“The Spiritans have a long history in Solino and this is a dream come true for the community. The whole community is excited about this field,” said Father Serro Michel, of the Spiritan Community in Haiti.



Cloister vocation offers life of joy

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — As the Year of Consecrated Life, declared by Pope Francis, comes to a close on Feb. 2, a community of faithful women in Fort Wayne continue to live their charism for the Lord and His people. The Poor Sisters of St. Clare, a public association of the faithful, live in cloister at Our Lady of Angels Monastery under the “Form of Life of St. Clare.”

St. Clare, said Sister Karolyn Grace, who will profess her permanent vows Feb. 2, was “a woman so ahead of her time, full of womanly strength and virtues.” St. Clare was the first to follow St. Francis’ charism, Sister Karolyn Grace said, adding that hers was the first rule written by a woman to be recognized in the Church.

The 10 women — two postulants, seven professed sisters and one novice — live as family secluded from the outside world where they say there are fewer distractions to their efforts to deepen their relationship with God. Each lives out her own charism according to the rule of St. Clare and all humbly rely on friends and benefactors for their daily needs.

A cloister vocation in the Church, said Sister Karolyn Grace, is “a very special call. We are called to be given completely to God with our whole minds, bodies, hearts and souls in a very radical way because we live within the bounds of our enclosure. We especially as cloistered nuns image the Bride of Christ the Church and it’s because we are exclusively given to Him with prayer as our primary work or apostolate or ministry that we are here to belong to God. And



Photos by Kay Cozad

The Poor Sisters of St. Clare live a cloistered existence inside the walls of Our Lady of Angels Monastery adjacent to St. Andrew Church in Fort Wayne. Following the charism of St. Clare the sisters pray for the world and all the intentions they receive from the faithful of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

by belonging completely to God we belong completely to the world and to the whole Church through this very special union that we have with our Lord Jesus in His offering to the Father.”

Several of the sisters were first part of the Franciscan Sisters Minor, founded in 2000, and following the rule of St. Francis. However after discovering St. Clare, they were refounded as the Poor Clares in 2012. As a public association of the faithful, the sisters have begun the process of forming a new religious community in the diocese

The Poor Sisters of St. Clare invite the people of the diocese to join them for a Mass of perpetual vows for Sister Marie Veronica celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at St. Andrew Church on Monday, Aug. 15 at 5 p.m. A potluck hosted by the Franciscan Brothers Minor will follow.

under Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades’ discernment. “Right now we are aspiring to be religious,” said Sister Stella Francis, a perpetually professed sister, who adds that when the bishop discerns that the Poor Clares have born the fruits of the Holy Spirit, “We would have canonical status as religious.”

The cloistered sisters begin their day at 3 a.m. when they rise to pray the Divine Office, the first of seven times they will pray the prayer throughout the day. Eucharistic Adoration takes place before the celebration of Mass at 7:45 a.m. with various local priests as celebrant. Bishop Rhoades visits the sisters once

A young woman writes a prayer intention she would like the Poor Sisters of St. Clare to pray for, that she will place in the mailbox by the sisters’ cloister door. The sisters welcome any prayer requests received by mail or placed in their mailbox. Each prayer request is confidential.

each month to celebrate Mass as well.

In between prayer times the sisters complete their everyday tasks, such as cooking and sewing, and participate in classes. A communal meal takes place at 4 p.m. when the sisters enjoy a spiritual reading along with their meal, after which recreation time allows for projects, games and “talk time.” Vespers and recitation of the rosary ends their day.

Though the sisters live a contemplative life, they may talk to each other or visitors periodically throughout the day as they keep the spirit of prayer, but from 8 p.m. to 9 a.m. they abide by a “grand silence” where complete silence is kept save for emergencies.

As for vocations, Sister Marie Veronica, who will profess her permanent vows on Aug. 15, said many come through conversations the women have with the Franciscan Brothers Minor who are in active ministry around the diocese. Any interested join the community as a postulant, wearing a jumper with no veil and

keeping her Baptismal name. After a year of discernment if she feels called to go on she would spend two years as a novice, taking a new name, wearing a habit with a white veil and rope belt. After two years as novice, the sister would make temporary vows for three years and receive a black veil and four knots in her rope signifying the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and the Marian vow. Finally, when taking perpetual vows the sister is given a ring to signify being a Bride of Christ. “Our rings are made of wood,” said Sister Karolyn Grace. “It reminds us of the cross.”

Of their community, Sister Karolyn Grace is quick to point out that “Once you walk through the door you’re not locked in or stuck here. We lock out the world but nobody gets locked in.” Joining a cloister is different, she said, than joining an active religious community. “The women who join us are very courageous and it’s a heroic act of faith to decide to seriously discern in the cloister as a postulant.”

One of the many gifts of this consecrated life of cloister is the great freedom for each sister to follow the charism the Holy Spirit has placed on her heart, said Sister Karolyn Grace. Novice Sister Rose Caritas, who will make her first profession on Feb. 2, feels this is her second vocation and says, “It’s the biggest joy of my life.” After living in the world as wife, mother and grandmother who participated in the sacraments daily and worked with people and missions she says, “You divide yourself up so much. In cloister you can do it all.” Her special charism is intercessory prayer.

All 10 sisters spend time in intercessory prayer for the world and for the people of the diocese, feeling united with God and His people. They are grateful for their benefactors for supporting them with their prayers and meeting their daily needs. But they especially appreciate their faith in their prayers. “The faith of the people is what is making our prayers heard,” said Sister Karolyn Grace.

The sisters said they stay connected to the diocese by reading *Today’s Catholic* and speaking with those who visit during porch hours everyday but Friday from 11 a.m. to noon and 12:20-1 p.m. They extend their fervent love for those they pray for saying, “We love all the people of the diocese in a thousand ways!” Sister Rose Caritas concludes, “It (the cloister) allows Jesus to fill us up with love and it overflows into the world.”

The Poor Sisters of St. Clare honor any prayer intention they receive with fervent prayer. Send or deliver prayer requests to Poor Sisters of St. Clare at 2610 New Haven Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46803.



St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla, to host mission

AVILLA — St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla, will host a parish mission Feb. 7-10. Franciscan Father David Mary Engo will celebrate the weekend Masses at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6, and 8 and 11 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 7.

Father Engo will present "God-The Father of Mercy," on Feb. 7 at 6 p.m.; "Jesus-The Face of Mercy on Monday, Feb. 8, at 6:30 p.m.; "Sacrament of Mercy" with Reconciliation service on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 6:30 p.m.; and Ash Wednesday Mass celebrated on Feb. 10, at 7 p.m., with the theme "Leaving the Message of Mercy."

USF Jesters preparing spring performance

FORT WAYNE — The Jesters of the University of Saint Francis will present their annual spring performance on March 12 at 6 p.m. and March 13 at 3 p.m. at the North Campus auditorium, 2702 Spring St. Tickets are \$10 and are available now. Call the School of Creative Arts (SOCA) at 260-399-7700, ext. 8001 for information.

The theme of this year's show, "Believe You Me," is about the evolution of ideas. Performers use music, dance, theatre, visual art and puppets to follow the adventure of an idea from its initial seed thought to its eventual demise or manifestation. Four lead character profiles are based on real people with disabilities in the greater Fort Wayne community who have successfully pursued a meaningful idea.

Throughout the show, good ideas and bad ideas are personified as characters. In light of the 25th anniversary of the American Disabilities Act, "Believe You Me" celebrates the ADA as an idea that provides people with disabilities a vehicle that supports an array of other ideas.

Sponsored by the University of Saint Francis since 1978, the Jesters is a performing group of people with mild to severe developmental disabilities. The purpose of the Jesters is to enhance quality of life for people with disabilities by engaging them in the creative arts. The vision is to develop self-expression, self-esteem, socialization and other life skills while providing learning opportunities to the USF community and the community at large.

Redeemer Radio offers broadcasts for Catholic Schools Week

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio has announced its broadcast lineup for the upcoming 2016 Catholic Schools Week. Each year Redeemer Radio highlights select diocesan schools during the

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Cultural diversity grant awarded to St. Mary School



Provided by Sara Lake

Nora Jackson, social studies teacher at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic School, Avilla, accepts a Celebrate Cultural Diversity Grant for \$2,000 from the Noble County Community Foundation represented by Linda Speakman-Yerick. Jackson wrote the grant in hopes of broadening the students' studies of African-American, Asian and Hispanic culture through the use of books, games, visitors, guest speakers, food and other materials. The study will begin during Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 31 through Feb. 6, and continue throughout the rest of the school year.

national Catholic Schools week beginning on Jan. 31. Redeemer Radio's special coverage will run Monday, Feb. 1, through Friday, Feb. 5.

This is the first year that 95.7 FM, covering greater Michiana, will be highlighting local diocesan schools in their listening area. 106.3 FM, greater Fort Wayne, and 89.9 FM, corner of northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio, will also be highlighting schools in their local listening area. Tune in to hear from the principals, teachers and students as they talk about Catholic Schools, and the value of Catholic education.

On 95.7 FM, listeners will hear from St. John the Baptist, South Bend, Our Lady of Hungary, South Bend, St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend, South Bend Light of Learning Luncheon, and Marian High School, Mishawaka.

Then, on 106.3 FM and 89.9 FM, will be broadcasting Fort Wayne Light of Learning Luncheon, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne, St. Louis Besancon, New Haven, Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, and St. Aloysius, Yoder.

All school broadcasts will begin at 8 a.m. following "Redeemer Mornings" except on the respec-

tive luncheon days, which will be aired at noon. Listen live during Catholic Schools Week on the radio, and online at RedeemerRadio.com.

Notre Dame launches initiative for better Catholic preaching

NOTRE DAME — Last April, Pope Francis ordained a group of 19 priests, urging the new clergymen to serve more than to rule their parishioners, and above all, not to bore them.

"Let this be the nourishment of the people of God," the pope said during the ordination ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica, "that your sermons are not boring, that your homilies reach people's hearts because they come from your heart, because what you say to them is what you carry in your heart."

Most Catholic churchgoers could well understand why the pope felt it necessary to warn against boring homilies, but the University of Notre Dame's John S. Marten Program for Homiletics and Liturgics has now embarked on a unique project specifically

designed to strengthen Catholic preaching.

Holy Cross Father William A. Toohey, Notre Dame Preaching Academy, a five-year initiative funded by the Lilly Endowment of Indianapolis, has enrolled its first cohort of 23 priest-participants from Notre Dame's founding religious order, the Congregation of Holy Cross, as well as from the archdioceses of Indianapolis and Louisville, Kentucky; and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The new program will make use of an online learning and discussion course, numerous group discussions, coaching from homiletics experts and even assessments from some of the hundreds of people to whom the priests preach each week.

According to one of the program participants, Father Jeff Nicolas, rector of the cathedral of the Archdiocese of Louisville, "One of the elements that helped to recruit priests to participate is the chance to have a Notre Dame homiletic expert evaluate and help them with their preaching."

"The greatest strength is the collaborative nature of this endeavor," said Holy Cross Father Michael E. Connors, director of

the Marten Program. "Preachers will self-assess and design their own goals for improvement; peer-learning groups will both support and critique each other; congregations will offer their input; and homiletic experts will coach priests in what life-giving preaching looks like."

According to Karla J. Bellinger, associate director of the Marten Program, the new program aspires "to create a rich community of learning to fortify the fruitfulness of Sunday preaching. In piloting this style of learning we hope, eventually, to make quality preaching improvement resources available to any priest or deacon wherever he is in the world; also to localize preaching support, so that clergy learn to help each other grow."

The John S. Marten Program in Homiletics and Liturgics was established at Notre Dame in 1983 with a gift from John S. and Virginia Marten of Indianapolis.

Dismas, Inc., names Brown new CEO

SOUTH BEND — Dismas, Inc., a nonprofit organization that oversees transitional housing programs for men and women returning from incarceration in South Bend and Nashville, Tennessee, has selected Gerald Brown as its new chief executive officer.



GERALD BROWN

Brown brings more than 10 years of non-profit management, development and financial management experience to the organization.

Brown will lead strategic planning and oversee all fundraising and marketing initiatives.

Maria Kaczmarek, executive director of the South Bend Dismas House, shared, "Mr. Brown's talents and skills will be an asset to both the Nashville and South Bend Dismas Houses."

Brown says, "I am truly honored to serve the South Bend community. I look forward to working with the South Bend staff, volunteers and residents so together we can strengthen the Dismas program to further enrich the lives of returning offenders and raise the public's awareness about the great work Dismas does in the community. I look forward to the opportunity and the privilege of supporting people in their greatest time of need."

Since opening in 1986, the Dismas House of South Bend has served more than 1,000 former offenders, who shared the 118 year-old historic home with more than 100 student residents from area colleges. Nationally, almost 70 percent of former inmates are rearrested within three years and 50 percent return to prison. Since 2012, only 18 percent of former offenders who completed the Dismas program in South Bend have returned to prison.

Fundamental freedoms to be protected under proposed legislation

INDIANAPOLIS — Hoosier lawmakers are considering a bill to protect fundamental freedoms for all Hoosier citizens, including religious freedom.

Senate Bill 66, authored by Indianapolis Republican, Senator Mike Young, would repeal Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) and ensure that the six fundamental freedoms that are guaranteed in the constitution will be state

law. These freedoms include the freedom to worship Almighty God according to the citizen's own conscience; freedom to exercise one's religion without government interference with conscience; no preference will be given to any creed or religion; freedom of speech; free exchange of ideas; freedom to assemble; and the freedom to bear arms.

The proposal to strengthen the six fundamental freedoms

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

was prompted in part because of the passage of Indiana's RFRA last year according Young.

Young described the language in the RFRA "fix" as "convoluted and difficult." Young said his bill provides an opportunity for the state to "clean the slate." Young asked, "Why should we protect just one of our fundamental freedoms? Why not protect all six?"

Young, an attorney, explained that without the strictest level of judicial scrutiny in place for fundamental rights, which Indiana's RFRA lacks, citizens' individual rights could be watered-down by the judicial standard a court uses to decide a case. Young said, "If the government is going to take away one of my fundamental rights, the government better have a very, very good reason to do so."

He added, "I want the highest standard of judicial scrutiny because it makes government less likely, and more difficult for government to take away my personal liberty."

Glenn Tebbe executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference, said, "The Catholic Church is supportive of Senate bill 66 because it establishes a needed standard that protects and balances interests of individuals and institutions as well

as the state's. When there is a compelling state interest for a law or regulation, it must be done in the least restrictive manner, protecting both the state's interests and the conscience and fundamental freedoms of all," said Tebbe.

"We need to recognize a new trend in this country of government expanding its regulatory power to redefine and intrude into areas traditionally beyond the authority of the state," said Tebbe. He cited state-mandated coverage of abortion and abortion-inducing drugs forced upon Catholic employers as one example. Another example is in licensure or accreditation.

Tebbe said, "These requirements should not include unnecessary rules that compel persons or agencies to act against their religious beliefs. These rules have forced adoption agencies out of existence in the state of Illinois."

"These examples illustrate an intrusion upon religious freedom and matters of conscience where either individuals or institutions are forced to act contrary to their creed or conscience," Tebbe said. "Senate Bill 66 protects against government overreach."

Young gave the example of the state providing a compelling interest to take away a citizen's right of free speech as it pertains to yelling "fire" in a public place. Young explained that to take away a person's fundamental rights, the government has to have a very good reason to do so. In legal terms this is called the compelling interest test. For a person to shout "fire," without there

being an actual fire, puts the public at risk, and therefore is illegal.

Members from the LGBT community have expressed their concerns for the bill. The LGBT community supported last year's amended RFRA because they felt it prohibited discrimination. Chris Paulsen representing Freedom Indiana, the group that fought for legalized same-sex marriage in Indiana, told Indianapolis news affiliates that she called Sen. Young's bill "back-tracking."

When asked how he would respond to the LGBT groups' concerns over SB 66, Young said. "Protecting our fundamental freedoms protects all citizens, black, white, Catholic, Protestant, atheist, gay and lesbian. It protects all citizens."

Young said he sees the civil rights issue that the LGBT community is seeking as a separate issue from the fundamental freedoms bill and says it should be treated that way.

Senate Bill 66 was heard in the Senate Judiciary committee, Jan. 27, and following committee passage it will move to the full Senate floor for second reading.

"I'm hopeful the bill will pass the Senate before the end of January," said Tebbe.

"It's hard to predict if SB 66 will pass this year. A lot can happen between now and March 16, when the Indiana General Assembly adjourns," said Tebbe. "What I do know is that the Indiana Catholic Conference will be doing our part to ensure that these fundamental liberties, namely our religious freedom, is strengthened and protected."

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Pro-life community 'walks the walk,' 'talks the talk'

BY JENNIFER MILLER

SOUTH BEND — Marking the 43rd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, the St. Joseph County Right to Life (SJCRTL) sponsored "March for Life: South Bend," a peaceful walk to honor the lives lost and call elected representatives and community to change on Jan. 22 in South Bend. Indiana Gov. Mike Pence was in attendance offering his support.

On Sunday, Jan. 24, the Knights of Columbus Council No. 553 sponsored a reflective prayer service at St. Joseph Church on Hill Street and an engaging panel discussion focusing on supporting family life for a culture of life. Both events offered specific ways to "walk and talk" pro-life values.

Claire Fyrqvist, rally host, began the rally with Father Bob Lengerich of St. Dominic Parish in Bremen leading prayer, Terry Wedel from Silent No More sharing her moving experience with grace and Tom Limner of Deer Run Church offering the closing prayer.

The new march route over the St. Joseph River and into downtown South Bend to the Federal Courthouse offered a peaceful public testimony to life through the heart of the city. Over 500 people attended, 250 students from local Catholic schools, such as Corpus Christi, Holy Family, St. Joseph, South Bend, and Mishawaka Catholic.

St. Joseph School first sponsored a special prayer service for the eighth graders attending the march. High school students and teachers from Saint Joseph and Marian high schools also



Photos by Kevin Haggenjos

Priests participate in the March for Life: South Bend including, near right, Father Bob Lengerich of St. Dominic Church, Bremen, and Father Chris Lapp, parochial vicar at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend and chaplain at Marian High School.

participated, as their travel to the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., was cancelled due to the blizzard on the East Coast. From babies and toddlers in strollers to seniors walking with canes, every age came and walked for an end to abortion in America.

At the Federal Courthouse, people lined the streets with a joy-filled and united spirit. Many families attended, including Rachel Myers and her daughter, Catherine, of Granger, who brought handmade signs, "Peace begins in the womb." Gov. Pence greeted the marchers, thanking them for their tireless witness to life.

Sunday's events also offered a positive tone of change to the somber realities of abortion in America. At St. Joseph Church, Father Dave Ruppert, pastor of St. Anthony de Padua Parish, and Bill Schmitt of the Knights

of Columbus led a reflective, ecumenical prayer service. Kevin Mitschelen of Riverside Church, a non-denominational community, offered a moving reflection. He challenged listeners that "while the death of innocent children take place God's people ... as a whole seem to be indifferent. Caring more about their Facebook page or a tweet that would make them seem clever ... all the while the world is screaming for hope and truth. And my friends, we have that hope and truth ... through Christ." He reminded participants, "It is through God's immeasurable grace that He desires to heal our land. ... God wants to heal our land, but first it will have to come through you."

A fascinating, thoughtful panel discussion followed at the hall. Members of the panel included Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of Holy Family Parish,

South Bend, and Josh and Stacey Noem. The Noems and their three school-aged children attended the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, this past September, where Pope Francis visited.

Father Kohrman focused on the anthropological aspects of the Synod on the Family's final document with descriptive anecdotes. He reminded listeners of St. John Paul II's quote from "Familiaris Consortio": "The future of humanity passes by way of the family." (No. 86).

Josh Noem shared powerful words of Pope Francis in Philadelphia: "God could have joined our humanity in any way — could have come to a city or in a palace. God sent His Son to a 'family.' He could do this because Mary and Joseph were a family with an open heart."

"An open heart is a place

where truth, beauty and goodness can grow," Josh Noem explained. These words struck at the heart of the nature of Trinitarian love, where individuals are made for relationship. That "deeper logic of God's love," he said, "is one of gift and self-sacrifice."

Stacey described the family's experience that mirrored that theology. One of caring for each other in crowds of thousands, to choosing to eat simply as pilgrims, to walk instead of ride that allowed their family to refocus priorities and share the experience together. She said, "Sacrificial love is a habit to cultivate and recognize."

Both the panel discussion and the march offered concrete and theological ways to communicate the pro-life message, both through word and action.



Stacey and Josh Noem were part of a pro-life panel who spoke about their experience at the World Meeting for Families in Philadelphia last September at the Knights of Columbus-sponsored Prayer for Life rally on Jan. 24 in South Bend.

St. Dominic Parish rallies for life



Photo by Phoebe Muthart

Children at St. Dominic Church, Bremen, made posters and marched outside Sunday, Jan. 17, to rally for life in commemoration of the 43rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Afterwards, they gathered at St. Isidore Hall to hear Fred and Lisa Everett from the diocesan Office of Family Life who spoke about the stages of pregnancy and utilized models of fetuses in their discussion with the students.

March for Life marks 43rd anniversary of Roe decision legalizing abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic admonitions about inclusion mixed with strong political language before the March of Life got underway Jan. 22 in Washington.

At a Jesuit-sponsored Mass for life at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church that morning, Father Paddy Gilger's homily reminded a small group of students that because Jesus made an effort to be inclusive when he chose his disciples, they, too, should be respectful of others' opinions. "As we join in the fight against the scourge of abortion, our differences remain, and that's OK," he said. Father Gilger also told the students to combine prayer and penance to create a culture of life. "Our efforts are to be able to create the same amount of space for people to change their hearts," he said.

Later, at the March for Life rally at the Washington Monument, attended by nearly 50,000, Carly Fiorina, the former CEO of Hewlett-Packard who is running for the Republican



PROVIDED BY DAN KOSTRZEWA

Franciscan Brothers Minor from Fort Wayne participated in the national March for Life activities on Jan. 22 in Washington, D.C. The photo was shot at the end of the march in front of the U.S. Supreme Court building.

presidential nomination drew loud cheers with her claim, "You can bet that I will win this fight against Hillary Clinton."

The next president, Fiorina said, "will decide whether we

force taxpayers to fund the political arm of the abortion industry," meaning Planned Parenthood.



Diocesan schools maintain excellence, mission

BY MARSHA JORDAN

Catholic Schools Week 2016 once again provides the opportunity to celebrate all that is good about Catholic schools — the work of teachers, administrators and students; the daily experiences of faith and sacraments; the outstanding academics, arts and athletics; and the family atmosphere that nurtures the schools. Maintaining a standard of excellence requires that we constantly evaluate programs and purpose, while always keeping Christ at the very center of our schools as a means of continuing His mission of proclaiming the Gospel. This mission is vital to the future of our young people, our nation and especially our Church.

In a homily to teachers and administrators at the 2014 Catholic School Mission Day, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades stated, “Our Catholic schools exist to call our children and young people to greatness, this greatness of soul, to use their God-given gifts to do what is great in God’s eyes — to serve, to help, to give, and to build up the body of Christ. A great school is one that encourages and strives for excellence. It doesn’t just try to get by. And it isn’t seeking the mere prestige of the world. A great Catholic school pursues academic excellence, to be sure, but first and foremost it seeks the greatness of Christ, the magnanimity of the Beatitudes, the courage of the cross. These pursuits, academic and spiritual, go hand in hand. For when we pursue academic excellence, we do so knowing that reason and intelligence, like faith, are gifts that God gives us to be used. In the light of our faith, we also know what true greatness is. We must strive for greatness in our lives and in our schools, seek to grow in goodness and virtue, and not be satisfied with the minimum, with mediocrity or the status quo. We must be committed to excellence, to growth, working together to make our schools the best they can be, everything aimed at building up the body of Christ and growing to the full stature of Christ.”

Challenged by the knowledge of this charge, the diocese and its Catholic schools have engaged in an ongoing continuous improvement process. This process has included examining current practices, test and assessment data, as well as inviting input from all stakeholders — teachers, students, parents and members of the various school communities.

In the past, diocesan schools have been accredited individually by the Indiana Department of Education as well as AdvancED, the parent organization of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. In 2013, the



Kay Cozad

Marsha A. Jordan is the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend joined in a collaborative effort with the other four dioceses in the state to form the Indiana Catholic Schools Consortium in an effort to strengthen all Catholic schools. All five Indiana dioceses agreed to pursue Diocesan Accreditation, integrate the “National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools” into the AdvancED accreditation process, and create a statewide Catholic schools “Quality Assurance Board” to develop and implement a statewide quality assurance and continuous improvement process for Catholic schools.

The NSBECs are “program standards that describe how the most mission-driven, program-effective, well-managed and responsibly governed Catholic schools operate. The NSBECs contains three types of statements grounded in Church teachings, best practice and proven success of those committed to the future of Catholic elementary and secondary education in the United States” (Lorraine Ozar, 2012). Nine Defining Characteristics define the deep Catholic identity of Catholic schools and serve as the foundation for the standards and benchmarks. These characteristics flow directly from the Holy See’s teaching on Catholic schools (Archbishop J. Michael Miller, 2006).

The next structural level consists of 13 standards that address the four domains of Mission and Catholic Identity, Governance and Leadership, Academic Excellence and Operational Vitality. As an example, standard three states that “an excellent Catholic school adhering to mission provides opportunities outside the classroom for student faith formation, participation in liturgical and communal prayer, and

action in service of social justice.”

Finally, 70 *Benchmarks* provide observable, measurable descriptors for each standard. Benchmark 3.1 states that “every student is offered timely and regular opportunities to learn about and experience the nature and importance of prayer, the Eucharist and liturgy.” Benchmark 3.4 states that “every student experiences role models of faith and service for social justice among the administrators, faculty and staff.”

In order to assess diocesan Catholic schools in the four critical domains, all elementary and secondary schools invited parents, faculty and staff, and students to respond to surveys in an effort to gain insight into their thinking and perceptions. Teams of teachers and administrators have been carefully analyzing survey responses and test data in order to enrich their understanding of areas of strength and effectiveness, as well as direction for improvement within our system of schools.

In mid-April, diocesan schools and the Catholic Schools Office will host a three-day system accreditation visit from a national team of Catholic educators. This External Review Team will interview diocesan officials, principals, pastors, and other stakeholders; visit a number of diocesan schools; and review diocesan school data, in order to gain as much insight as possible about our diocesan system of schools. The External Review Team will deliver an exit report on Day 3 that will provide an assessment of how well the diocese meets both AdvancED and the NSBECs standards, as well as recognition for powerful practices and any improvement priorities. The overall goal is to provide information to form a strategic plan that will guide continuous improvement in the Catholic schools of the diocese. The reaccreditation of schools will be achieved through the diocese being accredited as a system of schools.

As preparations continue for the April accreditation visit, we invite parish communities to pray daily for our schools. Especially during this Catholic Schools Week, please pray for teachers and staff who daily witness and proclaim the Gospel to our students. These men and women truly are, in the words of St. John Paul II, “great gifts to the Church.” Pray also for our predecessors, priests and lay people, who established the firm foundation of Catholic schools in our diocese. What a tremendous treasure they have given us! Inspired by their example, may we continue to strive for greatness in all areas of our Catholic schools in order to continue to build up the body of Christ.

The nine defining characteristics of Catholic schools

- **Centered in the person of Jesus Christ**
- **Contributing to the Evangelizing Mission of the Church**
- **Distinguished by excellence**
- **Committed to educate the whole child**
- **Steeped in a Catholic worldview**
- **Sustained by Gospel witness**
- **Shaped by Communion and community**
- **Accessible to all students**
- **Established by the expressed authority of the bishop**

Schools incorporate Year of Mercy into curriculum

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Performing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy has taken even a more prominent role than usual at many of the Catholic schools of the diocese during this Year of Mercy.

At Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, theology chair Thomas Kenny told *Today's Catholic*, "We as a school are meditating on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy during this jubilee year. This month we are going to focus on the call to shelter the homeless. In James 1:22 we read: Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves."

"As well as praying for the displaced, homeless, refugees and migrants, etc., we are called to do something," Kenny commented.

He spoke of the annual This Point in Time Count, which took place Jan. 28. Kenny said, "This occurs when it's cold and people wouldn't be on the street if they had anywhere else to go. Volunteers count the number of homeless people throughout the nation and much needed items are given to those in need, like coats, food, toiletries, etc."

Kenny's senior classes decided to take a collection of items — toothpaste, toothbrushes, lip balm, soap, body wash, lotion, deodorant, easy open canned food or food pouches, disposable razors, shaving gel and baby wipes — to donate to the area's homeless population through the Rescue Mission and Charis House. Each grade collected the items.

Bishop Dwenger High School Principal Jason Schiffli reported the corporal works of mercy will be the focus of each month. In addition to the collection, the Project Linus Club will make



Jill Hamblin

Every morning students and staff at St. Joseph School in Garrett meet for prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance and recite the school's mission, "Children following God in faith, respect, knowledge and service."

blankets for the local homeless.

"We will also focus more on educating and encouraging our students to act with social justice towards refugees of war, as we pray for their cause on our daily announcements, and take up collections to donate to CRS, for their help in refugee camps," Schiffli added.

Principal Mark Kirzeder of Marian High School in Mishawaka said Marian students "are actively participating in the Year of Mercy in several ways. Students listen to a reading and reflection each day given by Pope Francis in his book 'A Year of Mercy with Pope Francis.'"

He added, "Students are also intentionally and actively participating in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy thematically during each month. In January, for example, Marian students helped to clothe the naked by donating diapers to the Women's Care Center."

Maggie Mackowiak, the principal of Corpus Christi School in South Bend, sends a weekly flyer home with information about one of the spiritual or corporal works of mercy. "I try to include some information about each work and include something that they can do as a family," she said.

"We add something related to the Year of Mercy in our morning announcements and each classroom is incorporating lessons within their religion classes," Mackowiak added. "We are working on a school bulletin board that will show how we participate in each work of mercy. The fourth-grade class has a bulletin board with pictures from *Today's Catholic* identifying what work of mercy is being carried out."

"Lastly," she noted, "when disciplining one of our younger students — instead of giving a punishment — I asked the child

to do something nice each day this week for the child that he hurt from his actions."

And during Catholic Schools Week one of Corpus Christi's service projects will be random acts of kindness relating to the Year of Mercy.

Sacred Heart School in Warsaw has also planned special tie-ins to the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Principal James Faroh highlighted a number of activities including "Dress Red for the Heart Fashion Show," in which students in grades preschool through 6 and staff are going to dress in red on Thursday, Feb. 4, during Catholic Schools Week. The admission charge for the fashion show is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children with the proceeds going to the American Heart Association.

Also during Catholic Schools Week, the students' chess team will play checkers with the residents at Millers Merry Manor in

Warsaw.

Each month, Faroh said, "we have scheduled a Casual Day for a Cause where students and staff bring in a donation of \$1 or more and in turn may dress casually that day, instead of wearing their school uniform."

And coming soon during Lent the students may donate money via their collection envelopes or they may write on the envelope something they are doing to be good stewards. Students and staff also participate in the Rice Bowl during Lent with proceeds given to the Catholic Relief Services.

Sacred Heart School is an active participant in the Missionary Childhood Association, and during Advent of this year, students may donate to the association at the all-school Masses.

The school and church are also coordinating monthly free community meals.

And at St. Joseph School in Garrett, during Catholic Schools Week, "we will be giving back to our community," reported Jill Hamblin, the family development coordinator. "The school will practice the spiritual works of mercy — comforting the afflicted," Hamblin said. "Students will write a letter of appreciation or thanks to an overseas service member. In addition, we have invited a local veteran to our school to visit and share his story of faith."

Principal Mattie Willerton of St. John the Evangelist School in Goshen said that during Lent at their Monday prayer services, "we are going to focus on the corporal works of mercy."

She said the prayer services tie in nicely to the Lenten Service project, "Penny Wars," in which, "we collect change for Father Bob McCahill, a missionary priest from Goshen who works in Bangladesh."

Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund

Awards tuition assistance to 12 elementary schools

FORT WAYNE — Twelve Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are being awarded tuition assistance of \$500 or \$1,000 per student (25 students) for school year 2015-2016 from The Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund. Nine are Fort Wayne area elementary schools and three are South Bend area schools.

The Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund is a restricted endowment fund within the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana. Bishop John M. D'Arcy established the fund in 2007 with gifts from the 50th anniversary of his Priesthood, from memorials of his late sister, Mary Caprio, and from other special donations. The purpose

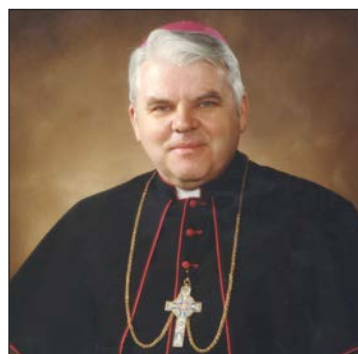
of the fund is to grant tuition assistance to Catholic students in Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Schools that have a student receiving an award for school year 2015-2016 are as follows:

- Fort Wayne area: Most Precious Blood, Queen of Angels, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel and St. Vincent de Paul, all in Fort Wayne; Huntington Catholic, Huntington; St. Aloysius, Yoder; and St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla.

- South Bend area: Corpus Christi and St. Jude, both in South Bend; St. Pius X, Granger.

The fund makes distributions each year based on an



BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

annual payout of 6 percent of the value of the fund at June 30. Recipients are awarded financial assistance based on need by a committee that consists of Daniel Fitzpatrick, Deacon James Fitzpatrick, Joseph Ryan and Superintendent of Catholic

Schools Marsha Jordan.

Bishop D'Arcy celebrated 50 years as a priest on Feb. 2, 2007. He contributed gifts that he received from the golden jubilee of his Priesthood to create the Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund. In addition, when his sister, Mary Caprio, died in September 2007, Bishop D'Arcy requested that memorials be given to this fund. Moreover, a special gift from a family foundation was contributed to the Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund in May 2008. The total value of the fund was approximately \$285,422 as of June 30, 2015.

The committee sent letters and tuition assistance application forms in August 2015 to principals and pastors of all

Catholic elementary schools in the diocese, inviting them to recommend one student from the school who qualified for tuition assistance based on financial need. Also, the committee requested a written essay, not more than 100 words, from each student who applied, titled "Why Catholic Education is Important to Me."

For each student who is granted an award, it will be for one time and is nonrenewable.

Those who would like to make a current gift of cash or stock or a planned gift such as a will bequest to the Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund, may contact Julie Kenny, director of Planned Giving at 260-969-9148 or jkenny@diocesefwsb.org.

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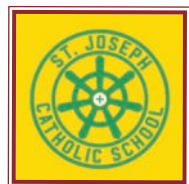
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Programs offer deeper understanding of faith, academics and arts

BY KAY COZAD

STEM education is a grant-supported initiative that promotes the enriched study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics across all grade-levels with the hope of better preparing students to enter the competitive global job market. The program, started by Judith A. Ramaley, the former director of the National Science Foundation's education and human-resources division, was designed to incorporate technology and engineering into a regular curriculum transforming it into one that is driven by exploratory learning and problem solving. With efforts that began in 2006, policymakers have focused on the STEM subjects to improve the science, technology, engineering and mathematics literacy of today's students.

Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne has integrated STEM into many of its math and science classes. But this year, for the first time, Luers has an Engineering Roots class that students are taking as an independent study before school, which combines all aspects of STEM as an introductory class for students who are interested in science and engineering. Bishop Luers math teacher Maggie Javins moderates the online class and said, "Students have really enjoyed the program. They have worked with circuits, CAD, and built a water filter out of recycled materials in just one semester. ... It makes what they learn in the classroom more relevant to their lives."

Two other schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have taken the STEM initiative to heart and one step further. Sacred Heart School in Warsaw and St. Michael School in Plymouth have collaborated with the National Catholic Education Association in creating STREAM, an educational initiative that promotes a strong focus on science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and mathematics.

Sacred Heart, Warsaw, Principal James Faroh and his staff initiated STREAM during the 2013-2014 school year,

implementing it in individual classes, across grade levels and school-wide — pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. "Each classroom has their own focus and quarterly we have school-wide initiatives," he said, adding, "We have weekly faculty meetings where ideas are discussed and plans are created. Interest areas and themes are discussed and then we make special plans to integrate all the subjects. ... We also have Family Groups, with a student representative from each grade, working on projects together."

Not only does the school integrate STREAM education during the school day, but it created STREAM clubs during the school year including Green Team Ecology Club, Lego Club, an Engineering and Math Club, Robotics Club, Ultimate Frisbee Club and others.

The students, Faroh said, are excited to work with hands-on activities, work collaboratively, utilize technology work at project-based learning, and draw conclusions to solve essential questions. "An important part of STREAM Education is to instill lifelong learning in our students," Faroh said.

St. Michael, Plymouth, Principal Amy Weidner couldn't agree more. "STREAM provides more opportunity for these skills to come together. And the more they (students) can apply the skills the better," she said. St. Michael implemented their own version of STREAM for their entire student body of 166 kindergarten through eighth grade. Mary Szymusiak, physical education and art teacher, has taken up the role of STREAM classroom teacher beginning this school year. She appreciates the extension this cross curriculum initiative has added to the STEM project with art and religion. "It's bringing education full circle — an eclectic balance," she said, adding that with hands-on projects the students "tend to dive deeper into the subject."

Currently, fifth- through eighth-grade students are working on a 10-week project with the goal of participating in a science fair — a time consuming effort. But, said Szymusiak, do-able now with STREAM. And promoting the school's Catholic identity, the inspired teacher incorporates religion into every class by talking about the saints, virtues and other aspects of developing the whole person. "Stream has built confidence in the students in being willing to explore and try something new," said Szymusiak, adding, "I tell my students to always do their personal best. Take a risk and you can learn more."

Our Lady of Hungary recognized by NWEA for academic progress

BY TIM JOHNSON

SOUTH BEND — Our Lady of Hungary School in South Bend has received national recognition by the Northwest Evaluation Association for the school's successful academic progress and professional development.

At the urging of Our Lady of Hungary pastor, Father Kevin Bauman, a former University of Notre Dame professor, and Principal Kevin Goralczyk, the school partnered with the NWEA beginning in 2014. With guidance of the NWEA, the school saw significant changes during their first year using Measures of Academic Progress interim assessments, Children's Progress Academic Assessment early learning skills assessment, and NWEA professional development focused on classroom formative assessment strategies. Student growth accelerated, teachers' skills strengthened, and students become more engaged with their personal learning journeys.

NWEA recognized Our Lady of Hungary for utilizing a program to change the way teachers taught in the classroom.

Goralczyk told *Today's Catholic*, "When I came to Our Lady of Hungary, one of the first things we needed to do was have a common assessment so we could measure our students' progress. NWEA offered such a program that was systematic and sustainable."

Goralczyk said, "They offer an educational approach of working with students to gain an understanding of more complex questions, which lead to high order thinking skills that are needed by students."

"We are in the midst of this change but the results are very promising and heading in a positive direction," Goralczyk said. "There was a need for our staff to address the particular needs of our students who are predominately poor, inner-city, and first generation American educated students. This outreach is what Our Lady of Hungary Parish is all about. Since the founding of the parish, we have been in direct service to immigrant populations. Whether it be the Eastern Europeans or the Hispanic peoples."

"Our staff understood this need and we got total 'buy-in' from them with implementing not only the assessments but how to teach and reteach the students where gaps appeared in their individual learning," he added.

"I am particularly proud of the success that our students have shown on the assessments because of the way the teachers are now preparing them," Goralczyk said.

Middle school teacher Melissa Wroblewski said of the mapping of students' progress, "We anticipated classes being below the test's national norms. Some were

slightly below, a lot of other were way below. But as the year went on, the kids became more invested and the teachers became more invested and changed up their teaching practices."

By spring, everyone's MAP (Measures of Academic Progress interim assessments) scores grew.

"To go from starting the year behind to showing double-digit growth was amazing — a great thing to celebrate," Wroblewski said.

She said because of the professional development training the teachers have received from NWEA, many teachers have adjusted teaching styles so they can better meet the needs of all students and reach each student at his or her learning level.

"Due to the changes in instructional methods, the students are showing more individual growth, which is making the NWEA MAP test results increase," Wroblewski said. "Differentiating what and how the students learn has become the driving force behind the rising test scores at Our Lady."

Fifth-grade teacher Kari Wuszke said the opportunity to learn more about formative assessments during the past year or so "has benefitted me personally and professionally."

"I have been able to utilize data more fully because it provides pertinent information to help me build better instruction in my classroom so that I can better serve the needs of all of my students," Wuszke said. "What has been most gratifying has been the knowledge mind-shift of the students as they have become more aware of their own progress and have begun to take more and more ownership of their schooling. With this shift comes positive growth and that has been a really cool thing for us!"

"This is how you change a culture. We educate our students and empower them to believe that they can achieve excellence," Goralczyk noted. "Nothing is beyond our students' capability."

Father Bauman told *Today's Catholic*, "I strongly recommend NWEA because of the superior professional development that it offered to our faculty."

"Faithful to our parish charism, Our Lady of Hungary School has empowered the immigrant poor through education," Father Bauman said. "Now we are doing it even better, crossing the borders of language, culture and religion in ways that make better sense to those we serve."

He added, "From the beginning Our Lady of Hungary school has remained faithful to our founding spirit: a haven for the immigrant poor, struggling to grow and prosper in this great country. We do this by offering the finest education possible albeit in the setting of a poor inner city parish."



Photos provided by Our Lady of Hungary School

An Our Lady of Hungary student stands beneath the school banner.



Students at Our Lady of Hungary School welcome visitors to their classroom.

Here come the saints!

Holy Cross College launches Summer Theology Institute for high-school youth

BY MOLLY GETTINGER

NOTRE DAME — Picture this: 60 high-school teens gathered on a college campus for a week, meeting in cohorts to ask deeply-probing, culturally-relevant questions regarding the intersection of Catholicism and social issues. Now imagine those emerging leaders bringing these discussions to life, taking their faith into the community to impact social change and cultivate a habit of service. This formation and experiential learning is exactly what will be coming to the campus of Holy Cross College this July as they launch their summer Saints and Scholars Institute, a week-long intensive program of “Theology for Emerging Leaders” that invites high school youth to ask relevant questions, explore the wisdom of



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY HOLY CROSS COLLEGE

Holy Cross College at Notre Dame will launch their summer Saints and Scholars Institute in two offerings this July. The week-long intensive program of “Theology for Emerging Leaders” invites high school youth to ask relevant questions, explore the wisdom of theological tradition, and examine how their faith calls them to a life of service.

theological tradition, and examine how their faith calls them to a life of service.

The emerging leaders will be placed in a cohort of 15 peers and will spend their week focusing on one of four tracks, each of which explore how theology is relevant to a specific social challenge: public health, immigration, the media and sustainability. Each day, there will be

Summer, page 16

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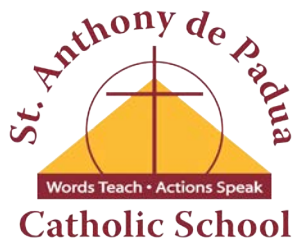
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SUMMER

Continued from Page 14

two seminars for each track, one looking to the wisdom of Sacred Scripture and the other focusing on a key theological text from Catholic Tradition. These discussion-filled seminars guide emerging leaders as they recognize the relevance of theology on societal issues, find their theological voice, and explore resonances between the mission of the Church and the need for justice in the world.

After lunch, emerging leaders will spend their afternoons engaging in experiential learning with one of the program's four community partners: St. Joseph Health System, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Redeemer Radio of Michiana and Unity Gardens.

Participants will exercise skillsets that invite them to emerge in the Church and in their community as leaders of social change. After an afternoon of service, the four cohorts will return to campus for an evening of activities.

The Saints and Scholars Institute is directed by Dr. Michael Griffin, associate professor and chair of the Department of Theology at Holy Cross College, and is led by an experienced and knowledgeable team of faculty and staff from Holy Cross College and the University of Notre Dame. Each cohort will have Holy Cross College student mentors.

This program is designed to cultivate emerging leaders and to allow this week of formation to continue to transform how participants interact in the world long after the week is complete. Dr. Griffin shares, "It's not just one week and done. We want those who attend to be leaders in the community and Church."

Dr. Griffin continues, "Much of the culture looks away from Catholic tradition for public wisdom. We will be looking toward that tradition. It's not a question of Church or community or of Church or public wisdom. It's Church and community, Church and public wisdom."

Andrew Polaniecki, director of Formation and Recreation for the Saints and Scholars Institute and director of Campus Ministry at Holy Cross College, has a vision that "Saints and Scholars will provide a dynamic, challenging and authentic experience where students will engage their minds and hearts and develop their gifts to make God known, loved and served."

The Saints and Scholars Institute derives directly from the heart of the Holy Cross College's mission "to form global citizens with the competence to see and the courage to act." Relationship-based experiential education is central to learning in the tradition of the Congregation of Holy Cross, helping young people discover and nourish their vocational calling.

The camp will have two one-week sessions: Sunday, July 17 to Friday, July 22, and Sunday, July 24 to Friday, July 29. The program is working with Notre Dame Vision and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend bcX conference, inviting participants of more than one of these programs to stay on campus at Holy Cross College on the weekend between, providing room, board and programming.

The program is made possible by a grant of \$600,000 received by Holy Cross College, from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s High School Youth Theology Institutes. This grant subsidizes the cost for students to attend, making the registration fee very affordable.

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| St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | St. Therese |
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South Bend Area Starts February 5

- | | |
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| Corpus Christi | St. Joseph, South Bend |
| Holy Cross | St. Jude |
| Holy Family | St. Matthew Cathedral |
| Mishawaka Catholic | St. Michael, Plymouth |
| Our Lady of Hungary | St. Pius X |
| Queen of Peace | St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart |
| St. Adalbert | St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart |
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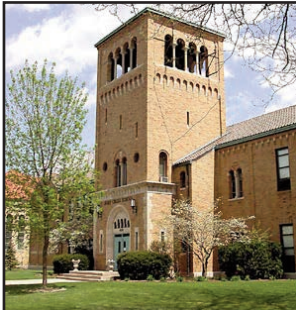
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Dr. Michael Griffin, shown above, who is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Theology at Holy Cross College, will direct the Saints and Scholars Institute, which will be led by an experienced and knowledgeable team of faculty and staff from Holy Cross College and the University of Notre Dame.

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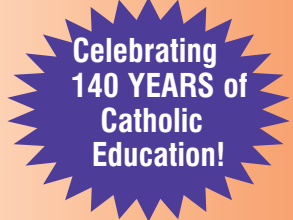
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The prodigal's brother

The immensity and beauty of the Grand Canyon are an inexhaustible mystery for me. This natural wonder must be experienced from different vantage points to be fully appreciated. I have hiked along the rim and taken different trails into the canyon; I have flown over it in a plane. Each perspective reveals something different, but all inspire awe.

Journeying through this Year of Mercy, focusing on the motto, "Merciful like the Father," I think the Prodigal Son story is a "Grand Canyon" to be experienced from several vantage points. The catechism encapsulates it this way, "Only the heart of Christ who knows the depths of His Father's love could reveal to us the abyss of His mercy in so simple and beautiful a way." — CCC 1439. I want to focus on the prodigal's brother.

The Prodigal Son story asks and answers an essential question for men: "How do you approach God?" The Psalmist answers, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." — Ps 111:10. According to St. John Paul II, we can "fear the Lord" in two contrasting ways. One is as a slave, seeing God as a master to obey, fearing punishment — servile fear. The other is as a son, seeing God as our Abba, our Papa, who makes a covenant relationship with us — filial fear, understanding that nothing, not even sin, can stop God from loving us. The Prodigal Son story illustrates these two approaches.

We all know this story, but go and read it again (see

Luke 15:11-32). The short version: a father has two sons, and "all hell breaks loose" when the younger one insults the father by wishing him dead, collecting his part of the inheritance and squandering it on sin. Finding himself broke and competing with pigs for food, he "comes to his senses" and decides to return home as a hired hand. Then "all heaven breaks loose." The father violates the social norms of his day by running out to meet his sinful son. Unexpectedly, the father fully restores his son's status, and the celebration begins. The father rejoices that his "dead" son is alive and home. This son enters into his father's mercy with filial trust.

This part of the story receives a lot of press and is exactly why the older brother grinds his teeth — he did all the right things, staying home and obeying his father. But "all hell breaks loose" again when he, too, refuses to come "home" to rejoice as his degenerate brother is treated like royalty. His father extends the same mercy to the older son by coming out to him. But the older son angrily whines, "You never gave me a party. It's not fair!"

The father, unfazed, continues his mission of mercy. He answers with some of the most astonishing words of Scripture: "Son, everything I have is yours!" Bishop Robert Barron says, "I don't know a pithier description of how God relates to us anywhere in the spiritual literature of the world."

We have a battle of fathers here. St. John Paul II says, "original sin ... attempts to abolish



DAVE McCLOW

THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

fatherhood." Satan lies, convincing Adam and Eve that the Father was withholding something from them — "to be like Him." But now Abba proclaims the truth: "Everything I have is yours." He gives us the depths of His heart, His mercy, His love — His Son. Let that sink in.

While the two sons distort their relationship with their father differently, they both share the servile approach, acting as slaves, demanding much less than the father offers. The father only acts out of filial love, dispensing mercy based on their sonship, not their behavior.

This is the problem for many men: their image of the Father is distorted, and they act out of servile fear of the Lord, waiting for punishment. They see God as critical of their imperfections, believing their worth is based on their behavior. The catechism (2779) points out that our parental experiences are obstacles to knowing the Father. It encourages us to purify our hearts of our parental images, even to pull down these "idols" to experience our Abba as His Son has revealed him: an Abba offering an abyss of mercy. We

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Of sharks and saints

Lately, my family has formed the habit of watching the television show "Shark Tank." On this show, self-made millionaires (the "sharks") meet with aspiring inventors and entrepreneurs, analyze their products and decide whether or not to invest in their companies — giving them a major publicity boost in the process. As the father of several teenagers, I hope that the program will teach them about how new businesses are created, as well as the necessity of hard work and risk taking for success in life.

Some of the products featured are truly impressive and deserving of success. An improved Sippy cup design I wish I could have purchased for my children 15 years ago. A smartphone-operated lock that could revolutionize home and business security. A long-lasting and hygienic household sponge that cleans effectively without scratching surfaces. Products like these provide value and improve the quality of life for customers, showing the dynamic creativity of the free market at its best.

Other products? Well... not so much. A bacon-cooking alarm clock? Wooden bowties? A bicycle-powered smoothie blender? An automated sunscreen application booth? Edible tableware? Sadly, all these were products pitched on the show. It truly amazes me that anyone ever thought these were good ideas.

What amazes me even more, though, is that there seems to be little or no correlation between the usefulness of the products being pitched and their appeal to

GUEST COMMENTARY

LANCE RICHEY

the sharks. No one on the show ever asks whether these products will actually improve people's lives. (One successful product was lip balm in complementary flavors to enhance kissing. Do young people really need products that incentivize kissing?) Instead, the only question asked is whether or not there is a market for them.

Some ideas seem to thrive off the gullibility and impulsiveness of consumers, such as the Internet business offering customized (and poorly done) drawings of cats for anyone willing to pay \$9.95. Yet one investor paid \$25,000 for part-ownership of the company. Eventually, thanks to the publicity provided by the show, almost 19,000 customers made orders. Other than the owners and investors, I cannot for the life of me think of who could have benefitted from this service.

Examples of such worthless products are legion. Plastic cups with built-in shot glasses on the bottom? The perfect gift for the fledgling college dropout in your life. Energy bars made from crickets? No thanks. Beer-flavored ice cream? I'd rather eat the cricket bars. But the willingness of

RICHEY, page 20

God's mercy excludes no one



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Lk 4:21-30

The Book of Jeremiah provides the first reading for this weekend. This book is regarded as one of the major Hebrew prophetic works because of its extent and the brilliance of its language. Jeremiah descended from priests. He was from a small village, Anathoth, only a few miles away from Jerusalem.

As occurred with many, indeed even most, of the prophets, his prophecies drew sharp rebukes. He even was accused of blasphemy, a crime that had death as its punishment in the Hebrew code of law. (It was this

statute that centuries later led to some of the demands for the crucifixion of Jesus.)

Despite the ordeals created by these rebukes and accusations, Jeremiah never relented in proclaiming fidelity to God as a personal, and national, imperative, and he never doubted that he was on a mission from God.

In this weekend's reading, Jeremiah recalls the day when God called him to the mission of prophesy. He gives the date. It was during the reign of King Josiah, who ruled the Kingdom of Judah from 640 to 609 B.C. God told Jeremiah to be bold. God predicted the controversial response to Jeremiah's prophesying, urging the prophet not to be daunted by unfriendly or angry reactions.

As its second reading for this weekend, the Church offers a passage from the First Epistle to the Corinthians. It is one of the most compelling, and best known, sections of the entire corpus of Pauline literature.

Clear and straightforward, it is the beautiful explanation of love. Few better definitions

of love, this ability unique to humans in nature, exist.

Paul then reveals what happens when a person embraces the Gospel. Imperfections fade away. Knowledge increases. Maturity is reached. The insecurities, smallness and shortsightedness of youth pass.

St. Luke's Gospel is the source of the last reading. Jesus, as the story clearly states, appears in the synagogue in Nazareth. In earlier verses, not part of this weekend's reading, Jesus stands to read a section of the Book of Isaiah. In this section, Isaiah recalled his own calling to be a prophet. Isaiah gave details as to what this calling meant. It meant that he was God's spokesman, sent by God to bring liberty to the oppressed, hope to the poor and sight to the blind.

Then, continuing, in the passage read this weekend, Jesus declares that this prophecy has now been fulfilled. In other words, Jesus is the long awaited spokesman of God.

At first, the audience is impressed. But then Jesus recalled an incident, mentioned

in the Old Testament, in which God showed mercy upon gentiles.

This mention of divine favor for anyone outside the chosen people infuriated the audience in the synagogue so much that they tried to murder Jesus. He, of course, escaped.

Reflection

The Church remembers the great feasts of Christmas, the Epiphany and that of the Baptism of the Lord in early January. In these feasts, it celebrated the mercy of God that came to us through and in the Lord Jesus.

Now, building upon this idea of God's gift of mercy and consequent eternal life, the Church this weekend presents these readings.

As the Gospel made clear, God's mercy excludes no one, but all must do their part in receiving this mercy. We ourselves must love others, with love as pure and unselfish as that described by St. Paul.

Granted, it is more easily said than done. Reactions to Jeremiah and to Jesus remind us that human insights are limited and self-centered.

God supplies us with what we cannot find or create on our own, eternal life, but also genuine wisdom and courage. Thus God sent Jeremiah to prophesy. Thus God sent Jesus, the source of the strength to believe and to love.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19 Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17 1 Cor 12:31 — 13:13 Lk 4:21-30

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 Ps 3:2-7 Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7-10 Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7 Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 (Ps) 1 Chr 29:10-11b, 11d-12 Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11 Ps 18:31, 47, 50-51 Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13 Ps 119:9-14 Mk 6:30-34

The heart of the tragedy of addiction

Addiction can be extremely harmful, and in some cases, fatal for those individuals ensnared by it. It can be seriously disruptive and damaging to those around them. Who is to blame when it comes to addiction? Family and friends may think to themselves, "Why can't Jane just stop drinking?" Or, "Doesn't Joe understand that his gambling addiction is bankrupting the family?" Or, "Can't Bob see how his pornography habit is destroying his marriage and his relationships?" For those facing addiction, it seems they ought to be able to recognize their behavior as harmful, and turn away from it by a resolute decision. Family and friends, however, can face years of frustration when they see their loved ones fall into a slow motion "crash and burn," spiraling downwards as they remain unwilling or unable to step away from their addiction.

The individual caught in the web of addiction objectively falls prey to a loss of personal freedom. His will becomes weakened, and he becomes enslaved in a way that limits his ability to recognize the right order of goods in his life. By repetitively choosing the addictive behavior, it becomes ingrained, and the ability to choose better, alternative behaviors becomes enfeebled, if not seemingly impossible. For these reasons, there is almost always diminished personal responsibility in situations of addiction. To be accountable for our acts, we must freely choose those acts, but the internal pressure and downward spiral of the addiction may have already co-opted the individual's ability freely to choose otherwise. Eventually this bondage can appear to be permanent, and addicted individuals can imagine themselves pathetic and hopeless to such a degree that they

almost give up. In the words of a formerly-addicted individual:

"I believe that I did not have a choice to stop. ... It never became clear to me that I could live another way until a medical intervention from my physician and friends took place. Willpower plays a small role here, but it too cannot work if one has a malfunctioning brain. I speak for myself here... I could not stop. Period. Now, I have stopped. Not just because of the intervention, but because I have turned my life and my will over to the God of my understanding. That is something 12 step programs have taught me."

This radical loss of freedom lies at the heart of the tragedy of addiction. Because we are creatures of habit, the choices we make, either for good or for evil, form us in one direction or the other, so we become individuals who are either capable or incapable of choosing the good freely. Virtue is a habit of good, while vice is a habit of evil. Early choices leading down the road towards addiction, freely made, can quickly snowball into vice, addiction and a loss of freedom. As one recovered addict graphically described it:

"My beef is with those who claim that they never chose to become an addict or never chose to hurt their families. ... While we likely didn't intend to end up helpless, dysfunctional people who (hurt) our loved ones, the choices we made put us at risk of ending up in a sorry state where we were capable of doing things we would have never dreamed of. Unless you were raised on Mars, we all deep down knew the risk of our choices, especially if you're talking about coke, crack, meth or heroin but we chose to roll the dice anyways. At a certain point, when I was starting to do coke almost every weekend, I knew

istic American culture in general, is the Catholic understanding of the common good — that is, the idea that ultimately products and services exist for the good of people, and not the other way around. Instead, the show treats customers not as persons to be served but as consumers to be exploited, and considers the best product to be one that maximizes the seller's profit rather than improving a customer's life. It is hard to imagine the carpenter Jesus feeling that way, yet we accept it as a fact of life.

The free market can be a wonderful thing, allowing individuals with creativity and initiative to improve their own lives and those of others. But, as the Catholic tradition has always held, true freedom is freedom for the good, not just freedom from external control. Unless we are willing to subordinate the forces of the marketplace to a true vision of human flourishing, we will end up enslaving ourselves.



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

that it would be wise to stop, but I chose not to because I was having fun and I told myself it will never happen to me. By the end, I was going on solo three day benders with alcohol and cocaine, and I landed in treatment. ... my point is that I made the choice to try the substance, the choice to begin to use the substance more regularly, and the choice not to quit when I could have."

While there may have been significant moral culpability at the beginning of an individual's descent into addiction, it is still critical for us to never stigmatize, patronize or abandon those who are in the throes of addiction. They may feel they are defined entirely by their addiction, unlovable and wretched, rather than seeing that they are, in fact, human beings who are precious to God and those around them, and even now endowed with some tiny space of remaining freedom. That tiny space will become key to determining whether they ultimately choose the behavioral changes needed to improve their situation and recover the human freedom that is rightfully theirs. We should support, encourage and love them in ways that will help lead them toward those good choices and successful outcomes.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

The failure of communism shows that totalitarian governments are incapable of replacing the marketplace in producing or distributing wealth. However, a mindless consumerism based solely on generating and satisfying material wants without reference to the dignity of individuals and the needs of society, as a whole is hardly better. Indeed, as Pope Francis reminds us, in God's eyes the two are not very different.

Contestants on "Shark Tank" always end their sales pitches with, "Who wants to make a deal?" As Catholics, we should instead ask, "What does it profit a man to gain the entire world, if he loses his soul?" Perhaps there is a reason sharks are never mentioned in the Bible.

Dr. Lance Richey is dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for January 31 2016

Luke 4: 21-30

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: Jesus' less than warm welcome home. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SPOKE	WORDS	QUOTE
CURE YOURSELF	DO HERE	CAPERNAUM
NO PROPHET	ISRAEL	ELIJAH
THREE	YEARS	SEVERE
FAMINE	SIDON	ELISHA
CLEANSSED	NAAMAN	SYRIAN
BUILT	HURL HIM	MIDST

BACK AT HOME

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C A P E R N A U M F I D

McCLOW

Continued from Page 19

must approach God as divinized sons with filial fear.

What does the older son teach us? First, as Pope Francis has recently said, "no one is excluded from the feast of mercy," not even the religious elite! Second, as Bishop Barron suggests, this is an unfinished story — it is never revealed whether the older son enters the party. It is our invitation to enter the celebration.

Will we experience his "Grand

Canyon of mercy?" Will we let "all heaven break loose" in our lives, coming home to the Father's house with open hearts? Sometimes Confession is needed, but we are always his beloved sons. Barron continues, "When ... we enter with abandon into the loop of grace — giving away in love what was given to us through love — *then the celebration begins.*" Are you holding up the celebration? Come home — Abba is always looking for you!

Dave McCLOW, M.Div. is a counselor with the Pastoral Solutions Institute Tele-Counseling Services. Read more at CatholicExchange.com.

RICHEY

Continued from Page 19

investors to fund them seems almost limitless.

Designer dog apparel? All-natural organic dog treats? Colored hairspray to brighten your pets? The closet capitalist in me feels a grudging respect for people clever enough to sell such ridiculous items. But the theologian in me has to ask, are any of these things really necessary? Do they improve the quality of our lives? Jesus tells us that even the dogs get the scraps from the master's table, but He never said anything about a line of cake mixes for your pooch. In a world where untold millions go hungry, are such items even morally defensible?

Notably missing from "Shark Tank," and from our consumer-

On Tuesday, Feb. 9, from 7-9 a.m.

the University of Saint Francis will host the 2016 Servus Omnium Lecture at its North Campus, 2702 Spring St., Fort Wayne. Sister Helen Alford, OP, of the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, will speak on "Have You Been Served? Human Dignity, the Common Good, and the Purpose of Business." Tickets, which include a Mardi Gras breakfast, are \$10 each and can be purchased at <http://servusomnium2016.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, contact Dr. Lance Richey at 260-399-8112.

Sports

GOLF COACH GETS THE WATER FLOWING Nearly 200 cases of bottled water are on their way to Flint, Michigan, thanks to Ancilla College Golf Coach Marc Green, golf students and staff of the college. Green said the situation in Flint — lead poisoning of anyone drinking city water — called him to the greater mission of the college. Part of the college's mission includes teaching students to live values-centered lives and The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, focuses on "standing with the poor and the powerless in the search for justice." Green said bringing safe drinking water to Flint fits with this broader ideal.

CYO Crusaders enjoy hot streak

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The St. Therese Crusaders are enjoying a hot streak and a team loaded with talent this season. Last weekend, they had a big 34-20 Blue League victory over the longstanding powerhouses from St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Saturday morning, Jan. 16. They also participated in a weekend showcase at Bethlehem Lutheran where they went undefeated and won the title.

Lukas North netted 19 against the Squires and added 14 in the tournament championship over St. Joseph, Decatur, while John Peterson had 18 and Jacob

Creager chipped in eight. A pleased Coach Zach Palmer felt that great team defense was big factors in the Hessen Cassel win and his team is showing a lot of heart.

When detailing the tournament championship, Palmer said, "It was a true team effort. Everyone on our team contributed." This was the Crusaders' fourth appearance at Bethlehem and first time to win it all.

On Jan. 23, St. Therese improved to 16-2 on the season with another win. This time they got by St. Mary and had seven different players light up the scoreboard.

Palmer summarized, "The unselfishness of our guys has

been very impressive all season long and really shined on Saturday. It was fun to watch."

In girls' action, the St. Rose-St. Louis Twins picked up a pair of Blue League victories with wins over St. Therese and Queen of Angels. Eighth-grader Abby Sheehan paced her team with 13 over the Crusaders, which included three treys. Morgan Castleman and Meagan Saalfrank had six each. Against the Royals, Sheehan led again with nine and Castleman netted eight. The Twins will square off against St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel for what is sure to be the Blue League regular season title on Saturday morning, Jan. 30, for a 9 a.m. tipoff at St. Rose.

Rivals Saints and Panthers face off in ICCL clash

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — The battle cry for the day, "We are so outnumbered there's only one thing to do. We must attack," by Sir Andrew Cunningham, resonated for the lone six Panthers of St. Anthony as they faced the daunting task of taking on their formidable rivals, the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic in a classic Inter-City Catholic League clash.

The Saints sported a huge front line with as many as four post players and a roster that doubled the size of their opponent. The Panthers countered with a trio of ball handlers that would make the Harlem Globetrotters green with envy, both in the hunt for the St. Martin DePorres Division crown.

Both teams stuck with traditional Indiana basketball man-to-man defense and were relying on ball pressure and good technique to stall each other's offensive strengths.

The guards of the Panthers pounced early with key buckets from Phillip Robles and Peter Royeca. Steals followed by con-

verted layups from Tyler DeBoe forced the Saints to immediately make adjustments.

The remedy would come in the form of big numbers 54 and 55, Hunter Renner and Joe Wood, as the talented pair crashed the boards heavy and dropped in a couple of point-blank buckets making the score closer at the end of the quarter, 17-7, in favor of the Saints.

The two big men, with the addition of fellow tower Thomas Egan, countered scores from Robles and Mitchell Florin to reel in the Panthers and their explosive offense just

a bit as they headed into the locker room at halftime trailing by just single digits.

The Saints' Renner came out of the locker room determined and quickly owned the paint and turned the contest into a two-possession game.

As the Saints practiced their Mikan drills, at one time getting five offense rebounds on a trip down the floor, the Panthers again turned up the heat and made shots on the run pushing their purple- and gold-clad foes to the limit.

In the end, Seal Team Six accomplished their objective and were victorious outpacing the Saints, 49-29, as they scored 14 of the last 19 points in the game.

"Mishawaka Catholic is always a tough team to play. We were very conscious of their rebounders and inside play," explained Nick Dalton, Panther coach. "The heart and soul of our offense; Robles (19), Royeca (15) and DeBoe (9) are not only competitive but they really play with their heads. I'm pretty proud of the whole group."

"When you play against a well-coached team that shot the ball very well, it makes for a long afternoon," commented Saint Skipper Greg Schultheis. "I'm proud of our guys. Now we have another four weeks of practice to get prepared for some more of the stronger teams in the league."



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ICCL

Continued from Page 21

In other action, Corpus Christi remained the only unbeaten team by holding off the Eagles of St. Joseph, 47-42, as the duo of Braden Kaniewski and Derek Derda and their 17 and 13 points respectively bettered the tandem of Tommy Garnett and Brady Gumpf's double-digit performances.

The Lions and Adam O'Dell of St. Pius X were able to keep the Trojans of Holy Family at arm's length as they prevailed, 35-30, in a hotly contested game.

Johnny Wang and his Pumas from Queen of Peace nipped Luke Krizman and the Blazers of St. Matthew, 31-24.

The Crusaders of Holy Cross, behind the efforts of Charles Black, jumped on St. Michael despite the dual combination of Nico Beeson and A. Ingalsbe.

St. Thomas' Charlie Maxwell was not enough to stop the Kings' Jack Futa and Adam Wozniak as they pumped in 15 and 14 points in a 43-34 victory.

The Bulldogs from Our Lady of Hungary added another win to their total as they beat the Falcons of St. Jude, 39-24.

Find scores, highlights and a complete schedule of the league at www.icclsports.org.

Bishop Luers wrestling and swimming teams recognized

FORT WAYNE — While only having eight wrestlers available for 13 weight classes at a Jan. 16 invitational, the Knights had five podium finishers, including two champions at the Woodlan Invitational.

The champions were junior Gage Mallott in the 120-pound weight class and sophomore Chandler Woenker in the 138-pound weight class. Both boys went 3-0.

Junior Luke Fisher took third place in the 160-pound weight class and sophomore Mitch Gigli took third place in the 182-pound weight class, both going

2-1. Freshman Ben Frecker rounded out the Knights' podium finishes taking fifth place in the 106-pound weight class, going 4-1.

Despite a numbers disadvantage, the Knights finished eighth place, out of 13 teams. The Knights had the individual SAC championships on Saturday, Jan. 23, at Snider with sectionals beginning Jan. 30 at New Haven.

Bishop Luers swimming team

Alex Maldeney, A.J. Gill and Brock Lombardo achieved All-SAC in swimming on Saturday, Jan. 16, with Maldeney being crowned conference champ in the 50 freestyle.

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St. Augustine Catholic School in Rensselaer, Indiana seeks a leader to serve as principal beginning July 5, 2016.

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Please send a letter of application and resume by February 29, 2016 to:

Reverend Donald Davison, c.pp.s.

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Marcellino D'Ambrosio
Matt Fradd
Jesse Romero

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit yours at www.diocesefwsb.org/bulletin. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at 260-456-2824 to purchase space.

Hannah's House plans spaghetti supper fundraiser

Mishawaka — The Knights of Columbus Council No. 1878, 114 W. First St., will have a spaghetti supper Friday, Feb. 5, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12 and children under 5 are free. All you can eat, carry-out available. Guests are invited to participate in the Baby Bottle Fundraiser or paper product drive as well.

Come begin Lent simply

Fort Wayne — A lunch of soup and bread will be on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, at St. Mary Mother of God Parish, 1101 S. Lafayette St. Serving from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lenten prayer service with ashes at 11 a.m. Contact Janice Kortenber at 260-424-8231 or e-mail stmarysfw@stmarysfw.org for information.

Queen of Peace plans open house

Mishawaka — Queen of Peace Catholic School, 4508 Vistula Rd., will have an open house Sunday, Jan. 31, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Take a tour of the school, meet staff and talk with current parents and students. For information contact principal Jill Patrick at 574-255-0392 or visit www.queenofpeace.cc.

Trivia night planned

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish, 11527 US 27 S., will have a trivia night Saturday, March 12, at 6 p.m. Teams of 10 are \$100 per table. Bring food and snacks for your table. Teams are encouraged to have team name and decorate their table. Beverages available for purchase — must be 21 to attend. Other games with prizes to be held throughout the

evening. Registration deadline March 6. For information contact Lorie at 260-437-3833, or email loriekrauss@hotmail.com.

Retrouvaille weekend coming up

Indianapolis — A Retrouvaille weekend will be Feb. 26-28 at Fatima Retreat House. Registration fee is \$100. Contact Chuck and Janet Schooley at 317-489-6811 or visit www.ret-roindy.com for information.

Garage sale to support seventh grade

Fort Wayne — A garage sale is planned for Saturday, March 19, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Contact 260-402-1365 or cstuzygo@comcast.net for information and donation details.

Ignited weekend retreat for high school students planned

Fort Wayne — Ignited, a week-end conference-style retreat for high school students will be March 18-20 at the University of Saint Francis. Students from all across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are invited to a weekend full of prayer, games and great music. This year's theme is 'Burning With the Fire of Mercy' and Catholic artist A-LOB will be coming from California to lead music all week-end. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will join the group for Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Register at ignitedretreat.com. Contact Andrew Ouellette at aouellette@diocesefwsb.org for information.

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 Come Begin Lent Simply...
 Bring a friend for a lunch of soup and bread on
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 to St. Mary Mother of God Parish
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 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 (Lenten prayer service with ashes at 11:00 a.m.)



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Joseph F. Raupfer, 91, St. Vincent de Paul

Huntington
 Carol D. M. Rainwater, 70, Ss. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka
 Robert E. Skodinski, 83, Queen of Peace

Greg Miller, 53, St. Joseph

New Carlisle

Aloysius A. Zmyslo, 90, St. Stanislaus

South Bend

Denise A. Vargo, 61, Holy Family

Bettye J. Micinski, 91, Holy Cross

Charles H. Slomski, 83, Christ the King

Parishes should submit obituaries to kcozad@diocesefwsb.org

Spaghetti supper

Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent de Paul Knights of Columbus will host a spaghetti supper on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the St. Vincent de Paul Parish hall. Free will offerings will be accepted and all proceeds will benefit the 12 seminarians from the parish.

CASA Knight at Bishop Luers

Fort Wayne — A CASA dinner will be Friday, Feb. 12, from 4:30-7 p.m. in the Bishop Luers cafeteria. Pre-sale tickets are \$8 per adult and \$4 for children 10 and under. Tickets at the door are \$2 more. Contact Judi Mathieson at 260-415-4387 for information.



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Living the Year of Mercy

Visit the imprisoned

St. Vincent de Paul Society initiates 'Project Underwear' in Fort Wayne

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — At the Allen County Jail, inmates cannot bring their own undergarments or obtain them from family and friends. They only can purchase them from the jail commissary or request donations from the chaplain's office. This includes thermal underwear, the only thing they can wear to keep warm in the winter. Sweaters, sweatshirts and jackets are not allowed.

Since Catholic volunteers began two years ago assisting the Allen County Chaplaincy through the diocesan Jail Ministry, many volunteers recognized this need from talking with men and women on the block and from the formal requests they fill out at the chaplain's office.

Cheryl Mowan, district president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, worked with her Vincentians, many of whom are volunteers at the jail, to ask if the society in Fort Wayne would help the Diocesan Jail Ministry Team provide much-needed underwear for indigent inmates of the Allen County Jail — approximately 1,200 people per year.

"Our conference presidents voted unanimously to spearhead 'Project Underwear,' as we have called it," Mowan said. "There are 15 St. Vincent de Paul Society conference parishes in the Allen County area. Each

quarter of the year three or four conferences will donate funds to the Diocesan Jail Ministry Team to buy the very specific kind of undergarments permitted the inmates," she continued.

"We sincerely hope to make this an ongoing ministry eventually involving the entire Catholic community through all parishes, not only those with Vincentians," said Mowan. It will be a way of not only providing physical comfort — clothe the naked — but also providing tangible evidence to the prisoners that God loves them through the care of Catholics and, hopefully, other faith traditions in Allen County. It's a way to show value to those who may not feel very valuable, she related.

The Vincentians invited Audrey Davis, coordinator of the diocesan jail ministry, and the jail chaplain to the district meeting on Jan. 13, which included a Mass at St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel in downtown Fort Wayne. Father Victor G. D'Souza, associate pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, spoke about St. Vincent de Paul and provided an overview of the mission of the society, which the chaplains were pleased to learn.

During the gathering and refreshments that preceded the business meeting afterwards, Davis and Pastor Deb Schell, one of three of the Allen County Jail chaplains, both spoke of their great gratitude for the society addressing this need.

"It was quite a blessing and a surprise to the Allen County Jail Ministry Team when some of its members initiated this conversation with your district, and you expressed a willingness to talk with your parishes and donate regularly to the jail," said Davis in her opening remarks.

Davis applauded the Vincentians for the way they are a prophet today and for the good news they bring to the poor through a gentle, powerful presence during times when harsh, threatening circumstances otherwise seek to triumph over people's lives.

"In this case the prophetic role you'll play is bringing to light a need of people literally on the margins, a need that was shouldered until recently by a few dedicated members of our community," Davis said, "namely, the chaplains who often from their own pockets are buying undergarments to fulfill the inmates' requests."

Davis said she looks forward to the Office of Social Justice and the society working together more in the future to support parishes more confidently stepping into that role of being an advocate for the poor among them.

"We're so thankful and have been so blessed by your group coming in and helping our group because we're all the body of Christ," added Pastor Schell. "We have a lot of needs and one of the biggest needs that we have is



Francie Hogan

Vincentians gather at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center for the check presentation to Allen County Jail Chaplain Pastor Deborah Schell, front left. She is with Cheryl Mowan district president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Audrey Davis, who coordinates the diocesan Jail Ministry. In the second row, from left, are Vincentians Tom Waning, Jack Dunifon and Vince Wirtner; and back row, Frank Oddou, John Becker and Rodger Rang. An initial "Project Underwear" check for \$1,760 along with some long underwear donated by St. Therese Parish for inmates of the Allen County Jail was presented.

the undergarments," she related. "We have over 800 people a day in the jail ... and most of them that come in have burned all their bridges on the outside, and so we try to help them. You know, if we want to meet their spiritual needs we need to meet their physical needs," she emphasized. "Christ gives you a love that extends beyond yourself."

In her remarks Pastor Schell listed several other needs many inmates often are lacking, such as reading glasses, subscription glasses repairs, denture cream, paper bags to put underclothes in, Bibles, plain white paper, pocket folders and bus passes for when they do get out of jail. "We are grateful for any help you can provide," she concluded.

Following their remarks, Mowan read a response from

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. He wrote: "In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on, and rediscover, the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. In this light, I was very happy to learn of the new project of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fort Wayne to provide needed undergarments for inmates at the Allen County Jail. This project reminds me of two of the corporal works of mercy: *to visit the imprisoned* and *to clothe the naked*. I support this project undertaken by the St. Vincent de Paul Society in collaboration with our Diocesan Jail Ministry Team. I pray that the Lord will bless this effort and all the efforts to live the Gospel of Mercy through concrete acts of loving service of the poor and needy in our midst."

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